

MEG
or
**THE PRINCESS AND THE
MEGALOSAURUS**

A Musical Play for Children

Book, lyrics & music by

CECIL KELLEHAR

Additional music by

STEPHEN GLASS

Arranged for piano by

GRANT HORSLEY

SchoolPlay Productions Ltd
15 Inglis Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3HU

MEG

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AUTHOR'S NOTES

Scenes have been numbered in each Act in logical sequences for ease of rehearsal, although in many cases action continues from one scene to the next.

Songs may be cut at the Director's discretion, the cut verses being available for encores.

MEG, the Princess and **MEG**, the Megalosaurus. Two performers of similar build are required to effect the transformation from one to the other in Act I, Scene 3 and Act II, Scene 4. Both should wear a Coronet, and while the costume for the Princess should represent no problem, that for the Megalosaurus could be a challenge to the Wardrobe.

Like most dinosaurs, this creature is shown in the Usborne Book of Prehistoric Facts (ISBN 0 86020-9733) as having strong legs, with three toes; short arms, with three fingers and a plumpish, tapering tail. This portion could be knitted in chain mail stitch, or made from buckram or some other stiffish material. The head could consist of a basket-work or similar frame made to sit on the shoulders, the performer being able to see through a gauze strip in the neck. The visage, with closed mouth, should be friendly and appealing.

MEG'S soliloquy and song "*Dream Man*" in Act I should be mimed by the Megalosaurus and recorded or performed offstage by the Princess in order to retain vocal identity.

Cecil Kellehar

LIST OF MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

1. **SOLDIERS' MARCH**
2. **I'LL NEVER MARRY** - **Jack**
3. **FANFARE AND SOLEMN MARCH**
4. **DANCE OF WELCOME**
5. **IN DAYS OF YORE** - **King**
6. **SHE NEEDS A CHANGE** - **Stinkerbelle**
7. **I'M NOT GETTING MARRIED TO THAT** - **Prince Moribund**
8. **DREAM MAN** - **Princess Meg**
9. **A SOLDIER BOLD AM I** - **Sam**
10. **ASSEMBLY OF THE ANIMALS** [*Reprise of March - No. 3*]
11. **DANCE OF THE ANIMALS** [*Reprise of Dance - No. 4*]
12. **THE WOODCHUCK SONG** - **Dr. Mendham**
13. **HAS ANYBODY SEEN DEAR MEG?** - **Jack, Sam & Dr. Mendham**

ACT II

14. **Variations of A SOLDIER BOLD** [*Reprise*]
15. **LOVE LYRIC OF THE NEW LAID EGGS** - **Oggie & Aggie**
16. **RHUBARB AND RASPBERRY AND SLOE** - **Mrs. Tipple**
17. **SHE NEEDS A CHANGE** [*Reprise*]
18. **A SOLDIER BOLD AM I** [*Reprise*]
19. **DREAM MAN** [*Reprise*]
20. **RHUBARB AND RASPBERRY AND SLOE** [*Reprise*]
21. **FANFARE** [*Reprise of March - No. 3*]
22. **I'M MYSELF AGAIN** - **Princess Meg & Jack**

Finale:

23. **I'M NOT GETTING MARRIED TO THAT** [*Reprise*]
24. **DREAM MAN** [*Reprise*]
25. **I'LL NEVER MARRY** [*Reprise*]
26. **IN DAYS OF YORE** [*Reprise*]

CAST

A Workman

Jack of the Forest

King Claud

Princess Meg

Prince Moribund of Sylvania

The Grand Vizier

Stinkerbelle - *A Wicked Fairy*

Sapper Sam

Dr. Mendham

Rabbit

Badger

Frog

Rat

Woodchuck

Bird

Oggie]

Aggie] - *New Laid Eggs*

Mrs. Tipple - *A widow*

Soldiers, Townsfolk, Dancers and Tumblers

MEG
or **The PRINCESS and the MEGALOSAURUS**

by Cecil Kellehar
additional music by Stephen Glass
arranged for piano by Grant Horsley

ACT I

SCENE 1

At the end of the LEAD IN the curtain rises on The City Square. WORKMEN are putting the finishing touches to the decorations in honour of PRINCESS MEG'S 16th birthday. They pause to watch the SOLDIERS march in from L. and around the stage with bugles and drums, singing their marching song, (MUSIC 1). The Stage begins to fill with TOWNSFOLK attracted by the noise and bustle.

MUSIC 1 - SOLDIERS' MARCH

Soldiers: *Come on and join us,
Come on and join us,
Come on and join the Army!
Come on and join us,
Come on and join us,
We are the boys you know!
We are the greatest,
We are the greatest,
We are the greatest Army!
We have the latest,
We have the latest,
Weapons to fight the foe!*

*Left, right, left,
This is the way we march, boys!
Left, right, left,
This is the way we go!
Left, right, left,
This is the way we march, boys!*

*Left, right, left,
This is the way we go!*

(Chorus of GIRLS twirling batons or pom-poms)

Girls: *We've come to join them,
We've come to join them,
We've come to join the Army!
We've come to join them,
We've come to join them,
They are the boys you know!
They are the greatest,
They are the greatest.
They are the greatest Army!
They have the latest,
They have the latest,
Weapons to fight the foe!*

All: *Left, right, left,
This is the way we march, boys!
Left, right, left,
This the way we go!
Left, right, left,
This is the way we march, boys!
Left, right, left,
This is the way we go!*

(At the end of the Repeat the SOLDIERS march off R. with small boys tagging on behind. A WORKMAN up a ladder hanging bunting drops the end of it. JACK, carrying a pack, hands it up to him).

Workman: Thank you, young man. If I don't get this finished before the foreman comes round I'll get my head chopped off.!

Jack: Why - what's happening?

Workman: You must be a stranger here if you don't know that.

Jack: Yes, I am. I've been travelling for three days and only just got here.

Workman: Not run away from home, I hope?

Jack: Not exactly; though I did want to get away from woodcutting for a bit, to see what goes on in the city.

Workman: How old are you, then?

Jack: Nineteen.

Workman: Well, it's all happening here!

Jack: What is?

Workman: Celebrations for the birthday of the King's only daughter - Princess Meg.

Jack: Oh - is that all?

Workman: No - She's to become engaged, too!

Jack: How nice for her.

Workman: Not really. It's to Prince Moribund.

Jack: Prince Moribund?

Workman: Dead from the neck up. I hear she can't stand him.

Jack: Then why does she have to marry him?

Workman: Because His Majesty, King Claud, thinks it would be good for the country. Prince Moribund comes from Sylvania on our south border, you see. So that we don't get any more trouble from them.

Jack: But to have to marry someone you don't love! Why, that's terrible!

Workman: Well, that's how it is, young man. And there's nothing you or I can do about it.

Jack: Maybe not in her case. But there certainly is in mine.

Workman: Oh, yes?

Jack: I'll never be in that position because I'll never marry!

MUSIC 2 - I'LL NEVER MARRY

JACK

*Talk about a wedding: what an awful bore!
Does he know the trouble he is heading for?
Girls are either prickly or a clinging vine;
I can get along without them really fine
for*

*I'll never marry
Cos I like to be
Foot-loose and fancy
And completely free.
I'll not surrender
To a giggling girl
Plastered with make-up
And her hair in curl - ers!*

*I'm for adventure
And a thrilling life
Without the drawback
Of a billing wife.
I want to travel
And to see the world
Don't want to sit at home
With legs curled - un - der.*

*I'm not the one
To raise a family
One little baby
Is too much for me
They're either sticky
Or extremely wet;
That's not the life
In which I want to set - tle!*

*Give me a back-pack
And an open sky;
Straw for a pillow
And the stars on high.
Give me a challenge
That is worth a fight:
I want to make your lives
A whole lot bright - er!*

*I'll never marry;
Let me make that clear!
I'll never marry;
No - the cost's too dear!*

Chorus:

*Give him a back-pack
And an open sky
Straw for a pillow
And the stars on high.
He needs a challenge
That is worth a fight;
He wants to make our lives
A whole lot bright - er!*

*He'll never marry;
Yes! - he's made that clear!
He'll never marry
'Cos the cost's too dear!!*

SCENE 2

(A fanfare heralds the approach L. of the Royal Procession. More TOWNSFOLK, BUSKERS and TUMBLERS fill the back of the stage, craning forward to see. SOLDIERS enter L. and push them back into line as the strains of a solemn march are heard.

MUSIC 3 - FANFARE and SOLEMN MARCH

Workman: Here! Quick! Let me get my ladder away!

(Exit R. A louder Fanfare announces the entry L. of KING CLAUD, PRINCESS MEG, PRINCE MORIBUND and GUARDS. As the procession halts, CHILDREN enter from L. and perform a dance of welcome.

MUSIC 4 - DANCE OF WELCOME

King: Thank you, thank you, my good people. Your loyalty and devotion does our parts good!

Meg: HEARTS, Daddy.

King: Er, all parts of our hearts good. This is indeed a joyous occasion as we gather to celebrate our dearer's birthday.

Meg: DEAR DAUGHTER!

King: Ah, yes our dear daughter's birthday. *(Cheers)*. And not only that, but also her betrothal to our son-in-elect, Prince Moribund of Sylvania. *(Groans)*. Are the carriage contracts ready for signature? *(The GRAND VIZIER comes forward with a scroll)*.

Vizier: The marriage contracts are here, Your Majesty.

King: *(Taking them)*. Good, good. Prince Moribund, these documents confirm that upon your marriage to my dearer er my dearer no, no - to the Princess Meg one year from today, you will receive half of my kingdom as a dowry. Perhaps you would like to peruse them - no, no I mean peruse them before we sign?

Prince: (*Taking the roll*). Oh, thanks awfully.

Meg: But, Daddy, I

King: Not now, my dear.

Meg: But when you've signed it will be too late!

King: My dear, we'll talk about it later.

Meg: Oh!! (*She turns away almost in tears and drops the posy she has been carrying. PRINCE MORIBUND looks at it stupidly. JACK dashes in, picks it up and hands it to her with a sweeping bow. The GUARDS grab him and pull him away roughly*).

Meg: Oh, please don't hurt the young man. Thank you, sir, for your courtesy.

King: They were only shoeing their mob I mean doing their job, my dear. But thank you, young man. What is your name and where are you from?

Jack: My name is Jack, Your Majesty, from the Forest of Dane.

King: Ah, the Forest of Dane. Yes, yes, I remember lots of trees there, aren't there. Now Prince Moribund, are you satisfied with the worms of the contract?

Prince: WORMS?!!

King: Tut-tut! I mean TERMS.

Prince: Well, ye--es, but I'm not quite sure whether I am the party of the first part or the party of the second part.

King: Quite immaterial, I assure you. After all, when you are married you will be the party of both parts, won't you - and what a party we'll have then!

Prince: Well, I suppose you are right But, may I just ask you see I do like a quiet life. Are there any problems or or troubles I'll be letting myself in for?

King: Goodness me, no. Look how sappy and mad I mean mappy and sad no, no! HAPPY and GLAD our people are! You'll have a pretty wife and a castle to live in. No, no troubles in this kingdom now. Not like in days of yore.

Prince: In days of yore?

King: When, so I've heard tell, we were plagued by a Megalosaurus.

All: A MEGALOSAURAS!!

MUSIC 5 - IN DAYS OF YORE

King Claud: *In days of yore
Perhaps a score
Of million years before us
There lived a whopping, hopping, clopping,
Plopping Megalosaurus.*

*It stood so high
It touched the sky
And made a noise uproarious;
That dancing, chancing, side-long glancing
Prancing Megalosaurus.*

*It roared around
With ghastly sound
And habits carnivorous!
That humping, lumping, bumping, clumping
Thumping Megalosaurus.*

*It ripped and roared
And bumped and bored
And made attempts to gore us
That grumbling, mumbling, tum-tum-tumbling
Jumbling Megalosaurus*

*To be succinct
It's now extinct
No more to overawe us
That stumbling, fumbling, bum-bum-bumbling
Rumbling Megalosaurus.*

*So all around
Are safe and sound
Like many more before us
From that stumbling, fumbling, bum-bum-bumbling
RUMBLING MEGALOSAURUS!!*

Chorus: *So all around
Are safe and sound
Like many more before us
From that stumbling, fumbling, bum-bum-bumbling
RUMBLING MEGALOSAURUS!!!*

SCENE 3

(At the end of the Song, Lights dim and the wicked FAIRY STINKERBELLE, with Witch's Hat and carrying a Black Wand, enters R. - to the sound of bone-chilling chords and a sharp intake of breath from the COMPANY).

King: Oh dear, whatever is happening?

Stink: Oh!! So you don't recognise me, eh?

King: The wicked Fairy Stinkerbelle!! I haven't aged you for scenes I mean seen you for ages. I quite thought you'd gone away for good.

Stink: As if a BAD fairy would go away for GOOD! You must be joking.

King: Oh, am I? How clever of me!! To what do we owe the measure of this pleating? er, no erm, the pleasure of this meeting?

Stink: I have come to enquire why I did not receive an invitation to your daughter's birthday celebrations?

King: Well, as I said, I quite thought you'd hung your slook I mean, slung your hook. Gone right away.

Stink: You tried to keep me away from Meg's christening, and now her birthday AND engagement party. I won't stand for it you know!

King: I'm horribly terry ah, ah terribly sorry, Stinkerbelle, really. Meg, say 'welcome' to Fairy Stinkerbelle.

Meg: *(Coldly)*. How do you do?

Stink: And how do you do?

Meg: Very well, thank you.

Stink: *(Crossing to MEG)*. I don't think you do look very well. A bit off-colour, I'd say. Claud; I think your girl could do with a change. Let me feel your pulse.

Meg: *(Snatching her hand away and dashing off L.)*. Take your hands off me!

King: Now, Stinkerbelle, you've frightened her!

Stink: *(Changing her tone)*. I only wanted to give the girl a present.

King: A present?

Stink: To improve her health. She needs a change.

MUSIC 6 - SHE NEEDS A CHANGE

Stinkerbelle: *She needs a change,
She needs a change,
Which is something very simple to arrange;
She needs a change,*

*A complete change,
Into something quite exciting but not dang...erous at all.
The sort of change
Within my range
May be on the lines of sending Cinderella to the ball
While I do not want to bore you
Positively I assure you
That this little lady here requires a change!*

Chorus: *While she does not want to bore us
Positively she assures us
That our pretty Princess Meg requires a change!*

Stink: *What shall it be?
What shall it be?
It must be something special, you'll agree.
Now let me see;
Now let me see;
I wonder which solution is the key....to this affair.
If you ask me;
If you ask me;
It must be quite exotic and, of course, extremely rare.
You may feel that I'm a crack-pot
But I think I've hit the jack-pot
With a wonderful idea what it should be!*

Chorus: *We are certain she's a crack-pot
But she thinks she's hit the jack-pot
With a wonderful idea what it should be!*

Stink: *So with my spell
Your little gel
Will have a change you never could, or ever would foretell;
For I'm going to re-arrange her
Simply in an instant change her....*

All: CHANGE HER??!!

Stink: Yes ...! I'm turning Meg into a Megalosaurus!! (*Fiendish cackle*).

Company: A MEGALOSAURUS??!!

Stink: Yes! (*Turning round to weave a spell*).

Abracadabra-cadabra-cadee,
A megalosaurus she shall be
And in that state forever shall dwell
'Till someone finds how to break my spell!! (Exit).

(The stage darkens, there is a flash, and if a Cyclorama is available, a light from the wings throws a shadow of a huge MEGALOSAURUS approaching. However, when it arrives it is quite small - MEG, in fact. General horrified reaction from CROWD).

King: Oh dear! What a forrible hairy! I mean what a horrible fairy! What has she done to poor Meg? Meg, my dear, is that really you?

Meg: *(Nods and during the following reacts appropriately).*

King: But how awful! Is it I mean are you feeling all right? Yes? Ah, good. Can you talk to us? No?

Meg: *(Gives a little roar).*

King: Oh! I see. Well, at least, that isn't frightening. Always look on the slight bride er tch the bright side I say.

Prince: What bright side?

King: Oh, yes I see. From your point of view things have become a little complicated.

Prince: Complicated!! I'm not getting married to that!

King: Don't worry. I'm sure we'll spell the break er Break the spell in no time. *(Tries snapping his fingers, turning round and round).* There must be an antidote somewhere.

Prince: Well, I'm signing no contracts till you've found it. I want to start a menage - not a menagerie!

King: Perhaps if you were to kiss her? That sometimes works.

Prince: Only when princesses kiss frogs.

King: But what about the Beauting Sleepy er, I mean Sleeping Beauty?

Prince: That was different. No, no! I couldn't possibly bring myself to kiss that! The marriage is off!!

MUSIC 7 - I'M NOT GETTING MARRIED TO THAT!

Prince Moribund: *I'm not getting married,
I'm not getting married,
I'm not getting married to THAT!
I'm not getting married,*

*Too long I have tarried,
I'm not getting married to THAT!
My plans have miscarried,
I'm hounded and harried
And as I am no diplomat,
I'm telling you straight
Before it's too late
I'm not getting married to that!*

*I come from a family noble and true
Credentials impeccable; pedigree, too:
Steeped in tradition, my blood is bright blue,
And so it's quite impossible for me to marry you!*

*I'm not getting married,
I'm not getting married,
I'm not getting married to THAT!
I'm not getting married,
Too long I have tarried,
I'm not getting married to THAT!
My plans have miscarried
I'm hounded and harried
And as I am no diplomat
I'm telling you straight
Before it's too late
I'm not getting married to THAT!*

*I'm not getting married,
I'm telling you flat,
I'm not getting married
NO THANK YOU - to THAT!!*

King: Then what ARE we to do?

Jack: (*Springing forward*). Your Majesty - I will look after the Princess! I will search the world to find how to break this spell, even if it takes me all my life.

Prince: Huh! What can a boy like you do?

Jack: At least I won't desert her in her hour of need.

King: Bravely spoken, my lad. And thank you for your devoted splendor - er ... splendid devotion. If you can indeed restore Princess Meg to herself you will receive a royal reward, I promise you!

Jack: To see her as herself again would be reward enough, Sire. But there is one problem.

King: Only one!?

Jack: She must be fed. What does a megalosaurus eat?

King: The last one ate er ate people. But I'm sure Meg wouldn't do that. Car to find oh, dear Far too kind and, besides, she's a vegetarian.

Jack: Then I'll take her back to my forest, where there is plenty of greenstuff to eat.

King: Yes, do that, young man. And may good fortune go with you. Oh - and you'd better have a guard go with you, too. Someone who can hand his turn that is turn his hand to anything. I know just the man - Sapper Sam!

Sam: (*Stepping forward*). Sire!

King: Go with my daughter and Jack and see they come to no harm seek them kafe I mean keep them safe. Your life will depend upon it!

Sam: You may depend on me, Sir. (*Joins JACK and MEG*).

King: Off you go then. But first let me kiss my dearer goodbye. (*Kisses MEG gently on snout*). Goodbye, my dear, and come back safe to us soon.

(*Exit JACK, MEG AND SAM R.*)

Prince: There you are, you see. A kiss didn't do any good.

King: It wasn't that sort of kiss.

Prince: Well there's no point in me staying here any longer. It's all been a complete waste of my time. You'll be hearing from our Foreign Secretary about this. I'm off!

MUSIC 7a - PRINCE AND COMPANY [Reprise]

Prince: *I'm not getting married
I'm not getting married
Although you may think me a rat*

Chorus: *He's not getting married
Too long he has tarried
And now he is leaving us flat!*

Prince: *My plans have miscarried
I'm hounded and harried
If I were as blind as a bat.*

Chorus: *He's telling us straight
That for a royal mate
He's not getting married to that.
He's not getting married,
He's telling us flat;
He's not getting married -
Not ever - to THAT!* (*PRINCE MORIBUND flounces out*).

BLACKOUT

SCENE 4

(A Woodland Scene. Enter JACK and MEG, with SAM following).

Jack: Here we are then, in the forest of Dane. Are you feeling tired, Meg, after that long walk? (*MEG nods*).

Sam: Of course she is. Princesses usually drive everywhere in a carriage. I bet she's hungry, too. I know I am.

Jack: Then just you rest on this tree stump while Sam and I go and find some leaves for you to try. (*She sits gratefully*). Now I wonder which you would like best?

Sam: If we get a selection she can try them all and let us know. You go that way and I'll go this and we'll see what we can find.

Jack: Right. Just you sit there and rest, Meg. We won't be long. (*Exeunt opposite sides*).

(MEG sits there and starts nodding off).

Meg: (*With a start*). Oh dear! I'm so tired. But I mustn't drop off to sleep. Goodness knows what is lurking in these woods. So long as I'm with Jack I'll be all right. He's so strong and handsome - and kind! My Dream Man!! I only wish he could hear me when I try to talk to him.

MUSIC 8 - DREAM MAN

Meg: *Falling asleep
I must take care!
Nobody knows what is lurking out there.
Just sitting here*

*What should I fear
Dreaming a dream of my Dream-man.
Dream-man,
Dream-man;
Where do I fit in your scheme?
All of my life I've been dreaming of you
Now that you're here can it really be true?
Dream-man,
Dream-man;
Are you as real as you seem?
Now that I've found you, oh, please never stray
Far away from me!*

*Long, long ago
I had a dream;
Gliding and sliding along a moonbeam
There at the end
You stood, my friend;
Now you are here, as my Dream-man!*

*Dream-man,
Dream-man;
Where do I fit in your scheme?
All of my life I've been dreaming of you;
Now that you're here can it really be true?
Dream-man,
Dream-man;
Are you as real as you seem?
Now that I've found you, oh, please never stray
Far away from me!*

(At end of Song, STINKERBELLE enters L.)

Stink: So there you are! And how are you enjoying life as a megalosaurus? (*MEG starts up and backs away*). Oh, don't worry, I won't hurt you. I've just brought this nice turkey for your friend, Sapper Sam. (*Puts Platter with Bird on floor Downstage C.*) There, that should make his mouth water when he gets back. What a pity you're a vegetarian! (*Exit L.*)

Sam: (*Entering R. with a bunch of leaves*). Here you are, Meg. See if you like

any of these. Lor' lummy.... where did that lovely turkey come from? I could just do with a nice fat leg of that! (*Drops Leaves and goes to grab Turkey; but as his hands nearly touch it, it moves a couple of feet away from him - pulled by a nylon thread from the wings. Ad lib business until the platter shoots off into the wings*). Well, there's a fine thing, leading me on like that! I bet that's the work of that wicked Fairy Stinkerbelle.

Meg: (*Nods*).

Sam: Just let me get my hands on her. I'll teach her to trick me!

Jack: (*Entering L. with leaves*). Try these, Meg. They look nice and juicy. Did you see any wild animal tracks, Sam?

Sam: Wild animals!?

Jack: Yes. There are bears, wolves and wild-cats in this forest. We must keep a good watch for them.

Meg: (*Runs to JACK'S side for protection*).

Sam: Don't you get frightened now. I'll fight them off - and anything else nasty that comes our way!

MUSIC 9 - A SOLDIER BOLD AM I (Sam)

Sam: *A soldier bold am I
Who's trained to do or die
Defending the flag or the realm or the king
I'd give up my life or do anything
And never reason why,
And never reason why.*

*I'll blow up a bridge
Or a dam I'll demolish
But I'll tell you straight -
I just HATE spit and polish
For a soldier bold am I.*

Sam: *A soldier bold am I;
When hurt I never cry.
I'd fight with a crutch and one arm in a sling
And never give up nor fear anything,
Or know the reason why,
Or know the reason why!*

Sam:

*A soldier bold am I;
My head I'm holding high
I always advance and I never retreat,
The dastardly foe I'll batter and beat
For mercy they will cry,
For mercy they will cry!*

*A soldier bold am I
And if I catch a spy
I will rattle his bones and I'll shake his liver
In front of my Captain he'll quake and he'll quiver
Confessing to many a lie,
Confessing to many a lie!*

*A soldier bold am I
On me you may rely.
When it comes to a fight I enjoy every minute,
And if there's a yarn to be spun I can spin it
And moisten many an eye,
And moisten many an eye.*

*I'll blow up a bridge
Or a dam I'll demolish
But I'll tell you straight
I just HATE spit and polish
And blanco and brasso they ought to abolish
For a soldier bold am I!!*

(Exeunt R. - Much happier).

SCENE 5

(Lights brought up slowly to transform into a clearing in the forest. Then we see signs in front - "SURGERY - 5pm to 6pm" and "WAITING AREA", with a row of mushroom and toadstool seats.

MUSIC 10 - ASSEMBLY OF THE ANIMALS
[Reprise of MUSIC 3]

{DR. MENDHAM is discovered asleep in a deck-chair, with a handkerchief over his face, snoring gently, with his bag by his side. ANIMALS begin to arrive and take their places in the Waiting Area. A limping RABBIT and a BADGER with one arm in a sling come in first}.

Rabbit: Good afternoon, Mr. Badger. And how is your arm going on?

Badger: Nicely, thank you, Mrs. Rabbit. Do I see you limping?

Rabbit: Yes. Got a nasty thorn in my foot and can't get it out.

Badger: Oh, the doctor will soon fix that.

Rabbit: I hope so. It's very painful. Why, Mr. Frog! What brings you here?

Frog; *(Croaking)*. Something gone wrong with my throat. *(Coughs)*. Got a man in it.

Rabbit: You want to gargle with salt water!

Rat: I've got a derrible code id by dose *(Sneezes)*.

Rabbit: Then don't come near us. Go and sit over there! Don't worry about Mr. Frog; he's probably got your cold already. That's why he's a little hoarse.

Frog: I'm not a little horse. I'm a frog!!

Badger: I think I've got a cold coming, too. *(Sneezes)*.

(WILLIE WOODCHUCK sidles in, looking rather lost).

Rabbit: Why, Willie Woodchuck! Are you on your own? Then come and sit next to me. Now what's the matter with you?

(At this point a CUCKOO pops out of a hole in a tree and "Cuckoos" five times. DR. MENDHAM wakes).

Doctor: Dearie me. Five o'clock! Now who is first?

Rabbit: Me, doctor. I've got a thorn stuck in this foot.

Doctor: Let me see. Ah, yes. *(Takes a large pair of pincers from his bag)*. There you are! Next!

Rabbit: Oh, thank you, doctor. That's fine!

Badger: I think my paw is quite better now, doctor.

Doctor: Let's have a look. *(Takes off sling)*. Now bend it up and down. No pain at all? Good, you can leave the sling off then. But don't try to lift anything heavy for a while. Next!

Badger: Thank you, doctor.

Frog: Good afternoon, doctor. *(Coughs)*. I can't get rid of this man in my throat.

Doctor: Open wide. *(Looks down his mouth)*. My word, yes; quite a big one. *(Reaches in and pulls out a doll which he throws off stage)* Just you be more

careful in future. Next!

Frog: (*Bright and clear*). Oh, I certainly will! Thank you doctor!

Rat: I be god this dasty cold, doctor. (*Sneezes*). Card breeve.

Doctor: You do sound bunged up. (*Takes a huge bottle of medicine out of his bag*). Take a table-spoonful of this three times a day, and keep out of the water till you are better. Next!

Rat: Oh, thag you, doctor.

Doctor: Why, Willie Woodchuck Come along. Don't be shy. Now what's the matter?

Woodchuck: Please, doctor, I

Doctor: Yes?

Woodchuck: I can't

Doctor: Can't what, Willie?

Woodchuck: Can't can't chuck wood properly. Look! (*He picks up a piece of wood and tries to throw it, but it drops at his feet*).

Doctor: (*Feeling his arm*). Yes, as I feared - quite flabby. Have you been eating up your greens, Willie?

Woodchuck: (*Hangs his head guiltily*).

Doctor: You'll never grow into a big strong Woodchuck if you don't eat your greens. Promise me you will.

Woodchuck: (*Nods and runs back to MRS. RABBIT*).

Doctor: Anyone else? (*A BIRD enters L*).

Doctor: Come along; you are just in time. And what is your trouble?

Bird: Oh, there's nothing wrong with me, doctor, thank you. But there's something very peculiar coming this way.

All: Peculiar!?

Bird: Yes, very peculiar. There's two men, one of them a soldier, and a large lizard walking along this track. I think they must be coming to see the doctor.

Doctor: To see me, you think? Perhaps there is something wrong with a large lizard, did you say? (*BIRD nods*) and they've heard about me. Well, now we must all be ready to welcome these strangers. Do you remember that dance I taught you?

All: Ooh yes!

MUSIC 11 - DANCE OF THE ANIMALS

[Reprise of MUSIC 4]

(They go into a dance during which the THREE TRAVELLERS enter and watch until it finishes. The DOCTOR comes forward).

Doctor: Welcome, strangers! You are very welcome! We don't see many people in these parts.

Jack: Thank you, sir. I hope we are not interrupting your revels.

Doctor: No; the dance was for you ... and ... your friends. I am the doctor here and we have just finished surgery. Perhaps you have a problem? I don't recollect having seen a lizard as large as that before.

Jack: "THAT", sir, is the problem, and if you can help us we should all be most grateful. This is no ordinary lizard, as you rightly suspect. She is a charming princess whom a wicked witch has turned into a Megalosaurus.

All: (*Drawing back afraid*). Oh!!

Sam: Don't be frightened, now, Meg won't hurt you. She's a vegetarian!

Jack: So we've got to find the antidote for the wicked fairy's spell.

Doctor: I wish I could help you, but that sort of thing is not in my line. But the world is full of problems and there's always an answer to them somewhere.

Sam: Ah, but where?

Doctor: You'll just have to keep looking. But every problem has an answer. Let me give you some examples.

Jack: Yes?

Doctor: Well, how about "Why did the owl owl?"

Jack: "Why did the owl owl"? I don't know.

Doctor: Because the woodpecker would peck her. Now, Why did the butterfly flutter by?

Sam: Search me. Why did the butterfly flutter by?

Doctor: Because it saw the dragonfly drink the flagon dry! And why did the razor-bill raise 'er bill?

Jack: I can't think. Why did the razor-bill raise 'er bill?

Doctor: So that the sea-urchin could see 'er chin, of course. We've even got a problem with Willie Woodchuck, here. Let me explain. And when you've learnt the answer I want you to sing it with me!

MUSIC 12 - THE WOODCHUCK SONG

(Animals and Audience drawn in to sing choruses at Director's discretion).

Dr. Mendham: *The world is full of problems*
 As ev'rybody knows;
 At school I used to solve them all
 By counting on my toes;
 However, there's one problem
 That troubles us to-day

*And if I'd put it into words
Then this is what I'd say*

Chorus: *How much wood would a woodchuck chuck
If a woodchuck could chuck wood ?
Why this is a problem I've never understood
The answer seems so easy, so shout it loud and good
It would chuck as much wood as a woodchuck would
If a woodchuck could chuck wood!*

Doctor: *What is the burning question
On everybody's lips,
That's being asked in Parliament
And getting three-line whips?
It is the age old problem
That's baffled every brain;
In case you haven't got it clear
I'll tell it you again*

Chorus: *How much chuck wood!*

Doctor: *We've solved so many problems
Like flying a balloon;
We've sent up rockets into space
And landed on the moon:
But still there's this conundrum
That will not go away -
Professors work upon it till
They're barmy, bald or grey*

Chorus: *How much chuck wood!*

Doctor: *Philosophers may argue
And many of them do
On where it is we started from
And where we're going to.
But this is not the problem
The world is puzzled by;
We'd like to have an answer to,
Some day before we die*

Chorus: *How much chuck wood!*

Doctor: *The lawyers in their chambers
Are looking up the law;
It seems there is no precedent
Upon which they can draw.
It's flumoxed them completely,
This problem that they face,
To give a simple judgement in
A very simple case....*

Chorus: *How much chuck wood!*

Doctor: *Now all these clever people
Are struggling hard and long
To wrestle with the problem as
Propounded in our song.
They argue all around it -
What can the reason be?
The answer is self-evident
To folk like you and me*

Chorus: - *How much wood would a woodchuck chuck
(Led by Doctor) If a woodchuck could chuck wood
Why this is a problem I've never understood.
The answer seems so easy, so shout it loud and good
It would chuck as much wood as a woodchuck would
If a woodchuck could chuck wood!
The answer seems so easy, so shout it loud and good
It would chuck as much wood as a woodchuck would
If a woodchuck could chuck wood!*

Doctor: Well, now, all you animals had better be getting home. Night is falling and soon Mr. Fox and Mr. Bear will be prowling around.

(ALL murmur in agreement and start to leave).

Rabbit: Come along, Willie. You take my hand. *(Exeunt).*

Doctor: I'm sorry, gentlemen, I cannot solve YOUR problem, but the person who might be able to help is Mrs. Tipple. She is a very wise woman and lives in a

cottage further down this track. But before you go, come into my little house for some refreshment.

Jack: Thank you, doctor.

Sam: I could really do with a drink, sir, thank you.

Doctor: Your friend appears to have dropped off to sleep.

Sam: She was very tired. A pity to disturb her.

Doctor: Then come along in. This way. (*Exeunt R. JACK looks back, a bit worried, but decides to join them.*)

(*The Stage darkens and STINKERBELLE, disguised as a Wolf, enters L.*)

Stink: So they've left her alone!! Now's my chance to work some more mischief. Sapper Sam said he would guard her with his life - and he's gone off to satisfy his thirst! Well I'll satisfy my vengeance by driving her off into the forest. Perhaps she'll meet a hungry bear and where will Sam be then?! (*She gets down on all fours and nudges MEG awake. Then makes growling noises which frighten her so that MEG rushes off into the forest. With a vindictive cackle, STINKERBELLE exits L.*)

(*The DOCTOR, JACK and SAM return.*)

Sam: Thank you, doctor. I really enjoyed that.

Jack: Yes, thank you, doctor - but where is Meg?!

Doctor: Don't say she's disappeared! Oh awful!! (*They rush around calling her name then come together for FINALE of ACT 1.*)

MUSIC 13 - HAS ANYBODY SEEN DEAR MEG?

(Dr. Mendham, Sam and Jack)

All: *Has anybody seen dear Meg?*

Tell us if you have we beg:

Jack: *She was with us all this morning*

Sam: *Now she's left us without warning*

Doctor: *We will search till day is dawning*

All: *- Anybody seen dear Meg?*

All: *Has anybody seen dear Meg?*

Tell us if you have, we beg:

Jack: *We are overcome with sorrow*
Sam: *We will beg or steal or borrow*
Doctor: *Means to find her by tomorrow.*
All: *- Anybody seen dear Meg?*

All: *Has anybody seen dear Meg?*
Tell us if you have, we beg!
Jack: *Please excuse our tearful weeping*
Sam: *Day and night our watch we're keeping;*
Doctor: *We'll be searching without sleeping!*
All: *- Anybody seen dear Meg?*

All: *Has anybody seen dear Meg?*
Tell us if you have, we beg!
Jack: *If you had the slightest notion*
Sam: *Of our deep, sincere devotion*
Doctor: *You would join in this commotion*
All: *- Anybody seen dear Meg?*

All: *Has anybody seen dear Meg?*
Tell us if you have, we beg!
She is King Claud's only daughter;
We were detailed to escort her;
Far and near and here we've sought her
We won't rest till we have caught her -

Jack: *Anybody seen ?*
Jack & Sam: *Or know where she's been ?*
All: *The daughter of the Queen ?! OUR MEG !!*

(Enter CHORUS of ANIMALS and SOLDIERS).

Chorus: *Has anybody seen dear Meg?*
Tell us if you have we beg!
She is King Claud's only daughter

*They were detailed to escort her,
Far and near and here they've sought her,
They won't rest till they have caught her -
Anybody seen?
Or know where she has been?
The daughter of the Queen?!
OUR MEG!!*

(They all rush off in different directions).

BLACKOUT

INTERVAL

ACT II

SCENE 1

In the forest and played in front of a curtain, scrim if possible, with Mrs. Tipple's Cottage set behind. It is still dark.

MUSIC 14 - variations on A SOLDIER BOLD [Reprise of MUSIC 9]

(SAM enters L. He has been searching for MEG all night and is tired and hungry).

Sam: *(Off).* Meg! Meg where are you? *(On).* Oh dear, goodness knows where she can have got to . She must be dead scared in this forest. It's bad enough for me and I'm a brave soldier.

(FAIRY STINKERBELLE, still disguised as a WOLF, comes just on stage L and gives a howl).

Sam: *(Jumping).* Oh! A wolf! I hate wolves - nasty creatures. Garn!! *(Chases her off and a cackle is heard).* I'm been looking for Meg all night: I can't go on any longer. *(Flops down).* And am I hungry!? What wouldn't I give for a couple of new-laid eggs. They would keep me going. I've got such an 'orrible ache in my in my *(Drops off to sleep).*

Stink: *(Entering L).* So you'd like some eggs, would you? And so you shall - in your dreams! *(Raises her arms).* Abracadabra, cadabra, cadee Oggie and Aggie, perform for me! *(Vanishes L).*

(OGGIE and AGGIE, two new-laid EGGS spin in from opposite sides).

Oggie: Aggie, my dear! How nice to meet you! I never dreamt I would bump into you like this.

Aggie: A good thing you didn't bump into me, Oggie. The result could have been shattering!

Oggie: True - but a cracked shell would be nothing compared with the ache of a broken heart.

Aggie: And who is nursing a broken heart?

Oggie: Oh, Aggie - I am! You know I am madly in love with you. Why have you been avoiding me lately?

Aggie: Well, we ARE in different grades, you know. You are Standard and I am Small. We're bound to go different ways.

Oggie: I notice that didn't keep you away from MacOgle - that large Scotch Egg!

Aggie: Oh, I've finished with him! Too hard-boiled for me.

Oggie: And what about your other large friend?

Aggie: Oh, Egbert - well, I do like him a bit. He's so strong !

Oggie: I'll say! Been around quite a while. A bit of a bad egg if you ask me.

Aggie: Well, I don't. Anyway, our curate says there is quite a lot of good in him.

Oggie: HE would! But then everybody knows he's a bit cracked. What happened to that actor chap I saw you with? Is he still "nesting"?

Aggie: No, he's had a break at last - with the Royal Shakespeare Company!

Oggie: Really!? What is he in?

Aggie: "OMELETTE".

Oggie: I bet he's hamming it up.

Aggie: He was almost too shy to go for an audition - but I egged him on!

Oggie: Always seemed a bit soft to me.

Aggie: Ye..es, I think he'd been coddled at home.

Oggie: Addled, more likely.

Aggie: Now you are egg-saggerating! At least he didn't run foul of the law!

Oggie: Not him! When I suggested a little egg-citement he chickened out!

Aggie: Any decent person would; you were going to break the law!

Oggie: But it comes naturally to Eggs.

Aggie: What does?

Oggie: Poaching.

Aggie: One of these days you'll be in a real pickle. Which reminds me - didn't I see you flirting with one of those French eggs recently?

Oggie: And why not? You don't love me, and you must admit she's very chic.

Aggie: Huh - chic! Must be going off a bit then!

Oggie: Ooh! - you are egg-sasperating!

Aggie: There, there, Oggie, I was only teasing. I think you are quite a.... good egg, really.

Oggie: Really?!

Aggie: Yes, really. You can kiss me if you like.

Oggie: Oh! - egg-stacy!!

Aggie: And you won't flirt with that French - thing - any more, will you.

Oggie: Oh no, Aggie. She's too egg-ocentric, anyway. But talking of chicks; do you believe in all that stuff they give us?

Aggie: What stuff?

Oggie: You know. That we turn into a bird, with wings and all that.

Aggie: Oh yes, it's true all right. As sure as eggs is eggs.

Oggie: But I mean - how CAN we? Just imagine me flying; why it's absolutely stupid!

Aggie: Well our curate says that all good eggs go to heaven, so they must be able to fly. But he also says that some eggs - unworthy, ungrateful, unbelieving eggs - finish up in a frying pan!

Oggie: Don't! The thought of it is egg-scrutiating!

Aggie: Cheer up, Oggie. We have each other. And later on, when we have our own little nest

Oggie: Yes But there is one snag, Aggie.

Aggie: A snag? What snag?

Oggie: When we hatch out. We don't know what sex we shall be!

MUSIC 15 - LOVE LYRIC OF THE NEW LAID EGGS

Aggie: *We first beheld the light of day
Deposited upon the hay
In Mother Nature's usual way
- New Laid Eggs.*

Oggie: *It wasn't very long before
You, my love, appeared next door,
The sweetest egg I ever saw!
- Don't blush, I beg*

Both: *And as we nestle side by side
Our joys and sorrows to confide
I pray one day you'll be my bride
- Call me your mate.*

*For till we leave this mortal shell
Our gender no-one can foretell
And equal sex would love dispel
- Unhappy fate!*

*But worse than the futility
Of equally shared virility
Would be our infertility
- Oh sorry state!*

*But still we swear fidelity
From now until eternity*

*And then a newborn Egg would be
- Worth the wait!!*

(They are disturbed by the approach of MEG: Give a little cry and spin off L).

SCENE 2

(MEG enters R and nudges SAM to wake him up).*

Sam: Oooo..ah! Why Meg! Am I glad to see you! But is it really you or am I still dreaming? *(MEG pinches him).* All right, all right! You've got sharp nails you know. So it IS you and I'm not dreaming. I was having such a lovely dream; about a couple of New Laid Eggs! Ah well....

Meg: *(Indicates that she is thirsty).*

Sam: Could do with a drink, could you? Well, so could I.

Jack: *(Entering R).* Why, Meg! How wonderful to see you again! Why did you run off? We've been searching all night for you. I wish you could tell us what happened. You were scared by something, eh? Well, never mind. We won't let you out of our sight again. And congratulations, Sam! You've done a great job in finding her.

Meg: *(Pricks up her ears and re-acts to this conversation).*

Sam: Well, I er I mean. I was only er

Jack: I know what you were going to say - you were only doing your duty. Modest as well as brave: that's what I like about you!

Sam: A bit of luck, really.

Jack: No, Sam. You've shown resource and initiative and I'll recommend you for promotion to Sergeant when we get back.

Sam: Oh, I don't think I deserve that, Jack.

Jack: I can't tell you how relieved I am to see dear Meg again! Yes, Sergeant Sam! How does that sound?

Sam: Brilliant! And I'd be able to eat in the Sergeants' Mess.!

(In the morning light, MRS. TIPPLE'S Cottage appears through the Scrim, which is drawn back when the lights are full on).

* In this Scene MEG can be played by another person of similar build so that the PRINCESS is ready dressed for the "Transformation" scene.

Jack: Food! Here we are talking about food when poor Meg must be starving!

Meg: (*Shakes her head; but again indicates that she is thirsty*).

Sam: I think she's thirsty. Oh, look! That must be the cottage the doctor told us about.

Jack: Mrs. Tipple's!

Sam: Come on, Meg. Let's see if we can get you a drink of water?

(*They all go up to the Cottage and knock*).

Sam: I'm sorry to trouble you at this early hour, madam, but I wonder if you could let me have some water for this poor, thirsty animal?

Tipple: Of course! There's some in that bucket by the well. (*Points off up R*). It can drink out of that.

Meg: (*Goes half into wings Up R to drink, but her tail can still be seen*)

Sam/Jack: Thank you very much, ma'am.

Tipple: And what about you two gentlemen? Can I get you a drink, too?

Sam: Oh, thank you, mam. A glass of beer would go down lovely!

Tipple: (*Horried*). BEER!! Most certainly not! I'll have you know, young man, that I am a strict teetotaler, and never touch strong drink.

Jack: We quite understand.... a little water would be fine, thank you.

Tipple: But I could offer you a glass of my home-made wine if you would care to try it?

Sam: Oh, thank you, madam. That would be very nice, I'm sure.

(*TIPPLE goes into her cottage as DR. MENDHAM enters L*).

Doctor: Good morning! You've found Mrs. Tipple, I see.

Jack: Morning, doctor. Yes, she's just getting us something to drink.

Doctor: A glass of her home-made wine, no doubt.

Sam: Yes. Is it any good, doctor?

Doctor: Depends which it is. If it's parsnip it could blow the top of your head off!

Tipple: (*Re-entering with a tray with four glasses of wine on it*). Morning, doctor! I saw you coming so I've brought you a nice refreshing glass of my home-made wine, too.

Doctor: How very kind! (*They all take a glass*). And which of your many delightful brews is this?

Tipple: Parsnip. Your good health, gentlemen. (*They all drink*). Gorgeous! Can't you feel it doing you good?

Sam: (*Gasping*). My goodness, it's got a kick like a mule!

Doctor: (*Aside*). Worse than my most horrible medicine! (*Trying to smile*).
Very warming, I'm sure!

Jack: It's certainly different. Ah, here comes Meg! (*While the others are watching MEG rejoin them he pours his drink into a nearby flower-pot, the contents of which slowly collapse*). Do you make many different kinds of wine, Mrs. Tipple?

Tipple: Oh yes. Lots.

MUSIC 16 - RHUBARB AND RASPBERRY AND SLOE

(*During this song, whenever MRS. TIPPLE sneezes, MEG puts her arms up and wiggles*).

Mrs. Tipple: *When I was a girl and just starting at school
My mother and father observed a strict rule
That never a bottle of spirits or beer
Should ever in their little cottage appear.
But then in the summer our fruit was so fine
We just couldn't let it go
And so it fermented and turned into wine:
Making Rhubarb and Raspberry and Sloe!*

*Rhubarb and Raspberry and Sloe:
Oh, what a glorious glow!
It tingles your fingers and wiggles your toes
And after a little it tickles your nose (sneeze).
Rhubarb and Raspberry and Sloe,
No-one can ever say "No".
There's no doubt about it, there's nothing so fine
As a sip from a glass of my home-made wine!*

*And as I grew older the rule still applied
For Mummy and Daddy took very great pride
In shielding their home from the demon of drink
By pouring such offerings straight down the sink!
But when, I suppose I was just about nine,
I refused to accept a "No".
And wheedled a sip of their Mulberry Wine -
And their Rhubarb and Raspberry and Sloe*

Mrs. Tipple: *Rhubarb and Raspberry and Sloe;
Oh, what a glorious glow!
It tingles your fingers and wiggles your toes
And after a little it tickles your nose (sneeze).
Rhubarb and Raspberry and Sloe,
No-one can ever say "No".
There's no doubt about it, there's nothing so fine
As a sip from a glass of my home-made wine!*

*So I'm a non-drinker and I'd have you know
I never touch liquor wherever I go.
I've cared for my husband and been a good wife
Not spending one penny on drink all my life.
But though I'm teetotal I'll give you a tip
I'm sure you would like to know:
There's nothing so pleasant as having a sip
Of my Rhubarb and Raspberry and Sloe!*

(Enter Chorus of ANIMALS to sing with DR. MENDHAM, JACK and SAM)

Chorus: *Rhubarb and Raspberry and Sloe:
Oh, what a glorious glow!
It tingles your fingers and wiggles your toes
And after a little it tickles your nose (sneeze).
Rhubarb and Raspberry and Sloe:
No-one can ever say "No".
There's no doubt about it, there's nothing so fine
As a sip from a glass of HER HOME-MADE WINE!*

Mrs. Tipple: *There's apple and apricot
Beetroot and cherry;
With bramble and bullace
To make us all merry.
There's carrot and cowslip
And damson and gorse
Also greengage and gooseberry,
And mulberry - of course!
And there's loganberry, elder
And parsnip and peach,
Also pear, plum and raspberry,*

*Wonderful each!
And then redcurrant, nectarine
Turnip and wheat;
You can even make wine
From that old sugar-beet!
There's no doubt about it, there's nothing so fine
Be it silver or brass
Ever coming to pass
As my chateau-bottled class,
As a sip from a glass of MY HOME - MADE WINE!*

Chorus: *As a sip from a glass of HER HOME-MADE WINE!*

(MRS. TIPPLE picks up the tray of empty glasses and exits into Cottage followed by CHORUS asking if they can have some too!).

SCENE 3

(DR. MENDHAM takes JACK by the arm and leads him downstage R. while SAM gives MEG another drink, holding the bucket for her).

Doctor: Did you notice anything odd about Meg's behaviour just now?

Jack: Such as?

Doctor: Whenever Mrs. Tipple sneezed it seemed to have an effect on her.

Jack: Perhaps it startled her?

Doctor: She may, as an animal, have very acute sense of hearing; but no, it was more than that. It was as if she was trying to wriggle out of her skin.

Jack: Wriggle out of her skin?

Doctor: Yes, like a girl getting out of a tight dress.

Jack: Do you do you think that this could be a clue to the antidote?

Doctor: We could find out.

Jack: Sam - bring Meg down here. The Doctor has a suggestion.

(SAM brings MEG downstage and the scrim or other curtain is drawn behind them to enable the setting of the next scene).

Jack: The Doctor thinks we might have a clue to the antidote to Fairy Stinkerbelle's spell.

Sam: Really!?

Jack: Meg, did you feel anything when you heard Mrs. Tipple sneeze?

Meg: *(Nods)*.

Doctor: Did you feel as if you might be getting out of your skin?

Meg: *(Nods firmly)*.

Jack: Would you like me to sneeze for you? I can sneeze quite loudly if I try.

Meg: *(Nods vigorously)*.

Jack: Right, here goes. Stand by for blasting! *(Sneezes loudly)*

Meg: *(Arms above her head, wriggles and spins round once)*.

(FAIRY STINKERBELLE enters downstage R. - unnoticed by the others).

Stink: I don't like the look of this. What's going on?

Doctor: Perhaps if we both sneezed together One, two, three *(DOCTOR and JACK sneeze)*.

Meg: *(Arms up and spins round twice)*.

Doctor: Did that seem better?

Meg: *(Nods very vigorously)*.

Stink: I don't like the sound of this either. They're getting too warm.

Jack: Let's all three sneeze together - as loud as we can. Come on, Sam One, two, three! *(All sneeze together)*.

Meg: *(Arms up and spins round three times)*.

Jack: That nearly did it. If only we could sneeze more loudly!

Stink: I must put a stop to this. They are on the right track, and if they break my spell I shall be powerless in future. *(Stepping into the light)*. You needn't bother. You will never be able to sneeze loud enough to break my spell!

Jack: Never?

Stink: Only if you were a giant; and that you can never possibly be!

Doctor: You are right, Stinkerbelle. He can never possibly be a giant. *(STINKERBELLE cackles in satisfaction)*. But somewhere in my medical books I vaguely remember a prescription to make up a giant sneeze.

Stink: Even then I could foil you by one wave of my magic wand!

Jack: Then we'd better take it from you.

(As he approaches STINKERBELLE, SAM slips quietly behind her).

Stink: Oh, no you don't! *(As she puts Wand behind her back, SAM grabs it)*.

Sam: Oh, yes we do!

Jack: Well done, Sam! Now arrest her and take her to the King. She cannot escape without her magic wand so see you keep it safely from her.

Doctor: And ask the Grand Vizier to assemble all the townsfolk in the square. We shall need their help if I am not mistaken. I'll go and look for the prescription for the Giant Sneeze.

(Exit L.)

Jack: And I must get some food for Meg to give her strength for the journey. This way, Your Highness.

(Exeunt R.)

Sam: Come along, now, Stinkerbelle. Don't dawdle. I don't want to push you all the way to the Palace.

Stink: Ooh, you are a big, strong man!

Sam: Well, er, I er am a military man, you know.

Stink: Yes; and you look lovely in your uniform. It suits you!

Sam: But these brass buttons are the devil to keep clean and polished.

Stink: What you want is a wife. Someone to look after you. I bet you get really lonely sometimes.

Sam: You're right. A soldier's life is a hard one.

Stink: You need a woman's tender care. Someone to cook and sew for you.

Sam: Do I?

Stink: Yes, Sam, you do. And I'll tell you something else that will interest you.

Sam: Yes?

Stink: Back home I've got a bottle of magic brasso. Clean your buttons with that and they'll stay clean for ever!

Sam: Now you're talking! Could I buy a bottle?

Stink: Oh, I'd give it you with pleasure, Sam, if only I could have my wand for a moment.

Sam: *(Goes to give it to her, then remembers)*. Oh, no - you don't catch me like that. *(She starts to cry)*. Now, now, Stinkerbelle; don't take on so! You shouldn't have been so wicked, should you: then this would never have happened.

Stink: I know! It's all my fault. And I don't like being horrible. I'm going to change and find a nice man to look after and cook for.

Sam: *(Very interested)*. Are you a good cook then?

Stink: Am I a good cook? My steak and kidney pie is fantastic!

Sam: *(Drooling)*. Steak and kidney!

Stink: Yes! And as for my Irish stew!

Sam: Irish stew!!

Stink: My dumplings have to be seen to be believed!

Sam: Dumplings!!!

Stink: Wouldn't you like to try some of my home-cooking, Sam?

Sam: Can you grill a nice kipper?

Stink: Would you like one now?

Sam: Me-oh-my! You just try me!!

Stink: If I could JUST have my wand?

Sam: (*Struggling with himself*). Well, perhaps No No, I mustn't kippers or no kippers! But if you really are going to change, and give up all this witchery

Stink: I am, Sam, I am!

MUSIC 17 - SHE NEEDS A CHANGE

[Reprise of MUSIC 6]

Stink: *I'm going to change
I'm going to change;
My wicked life I'm going to re-arrange.
Don't think it strange,
Don't think it strange
That I should give up evil in exchange for love and care.
Married to you
I'd bill and coo
And do whatever you would have me do;
In a world of love and laughter
We'd live happy ever after
When I've proved to you that I can really change!*

MUSIC 18 - A SOLDIER BOLD

[Reprise of MUSIC 9]

Sam: *A soldier bold am I
And I would have a try
To help you become an exceptional wife
Who'd look after me for the rest of my life*

*In perfect harmony,
In perfect harmony!
I'd look after you
If you'd look after me
And always ensure
There were kippers for tea -
Then happy for ever together we'd be
For a soldier bold am I!!*

(Exeunt L. with STINKERBELLE holding out her hand for the Wand and SAM keeping it away from her).

SCENE 4

The Scrim Curtain is opened to reveal the City Square as in Act 1.

*MUSIC 19 - variations on DREAM MAN
[Reprise of MUSIC 8]*

(The TOWNSPEOPLE are gathering, chatting away).

Workman: Is it true that our Princess is coming back?

Chorus: Yes.

Workman: And that she is still that 'orrible megalawhatsit?

Chorus: Yes!!

Workman: So Jack and Sapper Sam have failed - oh, what a shame! Still, something must be happening or they wouldn't have told us to gather here. What do you think it is?

(They break into groups to discuss as DR. MENDHAM, MRS. TIPPLE and the ANIMALS enter R.).

Doctor: This seems to be the place where everybody is gathering. Oh dear, I wish I could remember the formula for the Giant Sneeze. I couldn't find it in my books. But I know it has something to do with countries of the East. Iran, I think, comes in it. Something to do with Iran Are we all here?

Tipple: Yes, I think so. Even Willy Woodchuck has managed to keep up with us. Since you persuaded him to eat his greens he can chuck wood beautifully.

Just show them all, Willie! (*WOODCHUCK picks up a large log and hurls it offstage*). It really is lovely to see Willie so fit and strong!

Doctor: Ah! Dear madam, you have a wonderful way with animals, including those of the human kind, which you ought to practice more.

Tipple: Oh, Doctor!

Doctor: No, no, my dear, you have. And I've long admired you for it; - and other things. It does seem a pity that your undoubted talents are not more fully employed.

Tipple: In what way, Doctor?

Doctor: Mrs. Tipple may I call you Anesthesia? (*Down on one knee*). Anesthesia! Would you do me the honour of becoming my wife? I am sure you must at times be lonely - as, indeed, am I.

Tipple: I'm most flattered, Doctor. But, really, I don't know what to say!

Doctor: Say "Yes", Anesthesia, and make me - and all these animals - happy beyond our dreams!

Animals: Please say "Yes", dear Mrs. Tipple!

Tipple: Of course I will, Ebenezer Mendham! I've always had a soft spot for you.

Animals: Hurray!!!

Doctor: (*Rising*). Oh, thank you, my dear. (*Kisses her*). And you'll come to live at the Surgery?

Tipple: I'll be sorry to leave my cottage, Ebbie but, yes, I'll move in with you.

Doctor: And bring all your home-made wine with you?

Tipple: Naturally! The whole cellar-full!

MUSIC 20 - RHUBARB AND RASPBERRY AND SLOE

[Reprise of MUSIC 16]

Chorus: (*Sing one Chorus*) *Rhubarb and Raspberry and Sloe:*

Oh, what a glorious glow!

It tingles your fingers and wiggles your toes

And after a little it tickles your nose (sneeze).

Rhubarb and Raspberry and Sloe,

No-one can ever say "No".

There's no doubt about it, there's nothing so fine

As a sip from a glass of my home-made wine!

MUSIC 21 - FANFARE

[Reprise of MUSIC 3]

(The fanfare announces the arrival of the KING'S procession to cheers from the TOWNSFOLK. He is preceded by his GUARDS followed by SAM, wearing Sergeant's stripes, leading STINKERBELLE in chains, and the GRAND VIZIER).

Vizier: Oyez, oyez, oyez! Pray silence for His Majesty the King!

King: Good people! We are gathered here today to await the return of our door dearter - dear daughter - in the hope that we can persuade this wicked Stinkerbelle, captured by the brave SERGEANT Sam, to restore her to her frightful dear me, no rightful self. Ah, here she comes with faithful JACK now.

(JACK and MEG enter from R. MEG runs to her Father, who kisses her while JACK drops on one knee).

King: How lovely to see you again, my dear, even in this unhappy state. Rise, young man - you and Sergeant Sam have done very well. He tells me that Stinkerbelle intends to turn over a new leaf and lead a good life. If this is so she can prove it now by returning the Princess to her proper condition. Bring the prisoner forward! *(SAM leads STINKERBELLE in front of the KING).* Stinkerbelle, are you prepared to restore the Princess to us?

Stink: Yes, Your Majesty. But I can only do that if I can use my magic wand.

King: Give her the wand.

Jack: No, no, Your Majesty! If she has her wand she could turn us all into anything she wished!

King: Ah - um - yes. I hadn't thought of that. You've got good shoulders on a young head I mean a good head on young shoulders. Grand Vizier, what ought we to do now?

Vizier: It depends on how much Your Majesty trusts the prisoner.

King: I don't trust her at all.

Vizier: Then on the one hand, if Your Majesty does not let her have that wand, she cannot reverse the spell.

King: Yes? Go on!

Vizier: And on the other hand, if you do give it to her you put us all in her power.

King: The reply typical of a politician. My next Grand Vizier will have only one arm: no more on the one hand this and on the other hand that. What are we to DO?

Vizier: We appear to have reached an impasse, Your Majesty.

Jack: If I may make a suggestion, Sire?

King: Thank goodness somebody has got an idea! Yes?

Jack: My friend, Dr. Mendham here, thinks he has a clue to the antidote and that it is in some way connected with a very loud sneeze.

King: A SNEEZE!!!!

Doctor: Yes, Your Majesty. We observed that when someone sneezed your daughter appeared to be wriggling out of her skin; and that the louder we sneezed, the more nearly she burst out of it. We were not powerful enough, however, but if Your Highness would command all the townsfolk to sneeze when I count 3 then

King: Of course, of course. Grand Vizier! Promulgate a Royal Command!

Vizier: By command of His Majesty, all citizens are to sneeze on the Doctor's count of 3.

Doctor: Now all together One, two, three!! (*EVERYONE sneezes except the KING. MEG spins round as earlier but to no avail*)

Doctor: There! You see the effect it has, Sire? If only we could get it louder! If Your Majesty would deign to join in, perhaps a Royal sneeze would tip the balance?

King: Me SNEEZE! Much as I would like to, alas I cannot help. Being a Monarch the Grand Vizier always has to sneeze on my behalf. Might lose my crown otherwise, and that would never do.

Vizier: If I may suggest, Your Majesty, we could invoke the procedure for when Your Highness has a Royal Headache, and place your crown on the Red Cushion while you make your Royal Nasal contribution.

King: A statesmanlike compromise, Grand Vizier. I will do my daughter for anything I mean I will do anything for my daughter - for which there is precedent. Oh!, my poor head!! (*Removes his Crown and places it on a Red Cushion held by a GUARD*).

Vizier: Proceed, Doctor.

Doctor: Now, all together again! One two three!! (*They all sneeze this time, but to no avail. The KING, embarrassed, replaces his Crown*).

Doctor: Thank you, Your Majesty. I'm sorry it still didn't work.

King: You are doing your best, I'm sure. What we need is an astrologer or soothsayer as in the Courts of Babylon or Persia.

Doctor: PERSIA!! Of course, thank you, Your Majesty. I knew it was something to do with Iran! Oh, why do they go changing the names of these countries!

Jack: Have you remembered the formula for the Giant Sneeze then?

Doctor: Yes - it is all coming back now! We need to divide everyone into four sections (*Pointing to L, Upstage and R*) One, two, three But we need four!

Jack: (*Pointing to AUDIENCE*). There's a lot of people out there.

Doctor: (*Walking downstage and peering through the lights*). Why! So there is!

How marvellous!! You'll help us, won't you, to change Meg back into a Princess again? You will!! - Good!! Now this is what you have to do

(Ad libbing, he divides the AUDIENCE into four sections, getting each to practice in turn shouting one of the following words - RUSSIA, PRUSSIA, PERSIA, ASIA - until he is satisfied with the noise each section makes. STINK, becoming increasingly alarmed, tries to interfere but is held back by her chains).

Now I am going to count three, and on "Three" I want you all to shout your word together, to produce a really Giant Sneeze! Are you ready? ONE TWO THR *(The huge SNEEZE blows Meg spinning into the Wings L. There is a Flash, and a Bang on Drum and Cymbals and she immediately re-appears as the PRINCESS. STINKERBELLE is beaten!)*

Jack: Meg! - you're back again! How wonderful! Are you all right?

Meg: Oh, yes, Jack! And thank you for all you have done to look after me. And a special "Thank you" to all these good people here who sneezed me back and broke the Wicked Fairy's spell.

Sam: She is powerless now. Look, her magic wand has wilted!

King: Welcome back, Meg, dear.

Meg: Thank you, Daddy. And thank you especially, Doctor! Oh, Jack! Isn't it wonderful - I'm myself again!!

MUSIC 22 - I'M MYSELF AGAIN

Meg: *I'm myself again;
I'm myself again:
And happily back in good health again.
I'm myself again;
I'm myself again:
Restored to my status and wealth again.
I'm with you again;
I'm with you again:
Just think of the things we can do again!
Or is it a dream?
Am I now what I seem?
Oh, tell me, my love, that it's true again!*

Jack: *You're yourself again;
You're yourself again:
My wonderful princess and love again!
You're yourself again;
You're yourself again:
For which I thank heaven above again
We can dance again,
And romance again,
Find rapture in each other's arms again!
Oh, can it be true
 You love me; I love you?
Surrend'ring my heart to your charms again!*

(They go into a Dance, joined by the TOWNSFOLK).

Chorus: *We can sing again,
We can sing again,
The bells in their steeples can ring again!
It wasn't a dream,
Things are just as they seem:
Thank Heaven above we can sing again!*

King: Well, isn't this nice! Grand Vizier, what reward can we bestow on the durthy Woctor oh dear! the worthy Doctor?

Vizier: May I suggest "PURVEYOR OF MEDICINES TO THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD"?

King: Excellent! Now, with that settled we can turn to the most important matter of the reward for Jack of the Forest of Dane.

Crowd: YES; YES!!

King: Jack, my dear boy!

Jack: *(Stepping forward).* Sire.

King: For your courage and resourcefulness in rescuing the Princess Meg your reward is to be her hand in marriage and half my kingdom. *(Hands MEG over to him).*

(The cheers of the CROWD are cut short by PRINCE MORIBUND rushing in waving his Scroll).

Prince: Stop! Stop!! This cannot be! I have a prior claim.

MUSIC 25 - I'LL NEVER MARRY
[Reprise of MUSIC 2]

Jack: *I'm going to marry
For I've come to see
That dearest Meg's the
Only one for me.
We were intended
By the Fates above;
All that I know is
That I truly love her!
I'm getting married,
Let me make this clear;
I'm getting married
'Cos I love her dear!!*

King: *(Dabbing his eyes).* Oh, isn't that lovely! I don't know when I've...
(Bursting into tears).... I've been so happy!!, *(Loud blow of nose).* Now, my
good people, you must all come to a palace at the party.... no, no, I mean.... to
a party at the palace to celebrate the freedom of our state from the shadow of
the MEGALOSAURUS!

FINALE

MUSIC 26 - IN DAYS OF YORE
[Reprise of MUSIC 5]

King Claud and Company: *In days of yore
Perhaps a score
Of million years before us
There lived a whopping, hopping, clopping
Plopping Megalosaurus.*

*It roared around
With ghastly sound
And habits carnivorous!
That humping, lumping, bumping, clumping
Thumping Megalosaurus.*

*To be succinct
It's now extinct
No more to overawe us
That stumbling, fumbling, bum-bum-bumbling
Rumbling Megalosaurus.*

*So all around
Are safe and sound
Like many more before us
From that stumbling, fumbling, bum-bum-bumbling
RUMBLING MEGALOSAURUS!!*

(To general rejoicing, the Curtain falls).

CURTAIN

