

THE PRINCESS AND THE DRAGON

A Short Musical

by

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Music by

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SchoolPlay Productions Ltd

15 Inglis Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3HU

THE PRINCESS AND THE DRAGON

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SchoolPlay Productions Limited,
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CAST

Princess Belle

King Alfonso

Queen Arabella *The Good Witch*

Grizelda *The Bad Witch (Arabella's twin sister)*

Prince Ragwort, the Sometimes Brave

Edwin *Prince Ragwort's Faithful Squire*

Mayor / Dragon

Major Domo

Villagers

Guests at the Ball

Landlord

Mice - Simpkin and Timpkin

Birds - Alfred and Barney

Hobgoblins

THE PRINCESS AND THE DRAGON

Music & Lyrics by Drey Cole

Script by Alasdair Francis

SCENE 1

(The VILLAGERS are dancing and singing in the square about the impending Party at the castle).

MUSIC 1 - VILLAGERS' SONG

Villagers: *Rushing, dashing
Trying hard to make our village clean and tidy.
People passing,
Stop and say they've never seen it look so pretty.*

*At the Castle, there's a birthday,
Princess Belle is now eighteen.
Friends will gather for the party,
The biggest spread you've ever seen.*

1st Villager: It's certainly been all go these last few days.

2nd Villager: You are not joking! If we've swept the village square once, we've done it a dozen times.

3rd Villager: And the amount of food we've had to take up to the castle.

1st Villager: Not to mention the drink!

2nd Villager: It's certainly going to be some party.

3rd Villager: Well I don't suppose it's every day the Princess has her eighteenth birthday, is it?

4th Villager: I do hope the children behave themselves when all the guests start arriving. We don't want them chasing after the carriages and the visitors thinking we're a lot of ruffians.

1st Villager: Well I've told my two that if I see them misbehaving at all I'll grind them.

2nd Villager: Don't you mean ground them?

1st Villager: I know what I mean!

3rd Villager: I'm sure everything will be all right. The King and Queen have always been very good to us villagers.

5th Villager: (*walking over to GROUP*). I'll second that. Look what they've done in the last few years. There's the new well, they let us graze the animals on their land free of charge, new roofs for the cottages and the new carriage for the Mayor.

3rd Villager: I'll tell you something, I'm jolly pleased that Queen Arabella was born a few minutes before that dreadful twin sister of hers. I've never seen such a nasty person in all my life. Just imagine what life would have been like if that nasty piece of work was our Queen.

1st Villager: What I'll never understand is how Grizelda gets away with it. I mean they are both equally powerful witches yet Grizelda always seems to come off the best.

2nd Villager: Well, as I understand it, they both have the same power but they cannot use it either against each other or against each other's spells.

4th Villager: Anyway, we're lucky to have Arabella as our Queen.

3rd Villager: I still think Grizelda is a horrible, nasty person.

4th Villager: Shhh! You never know when or where she is sneaking about.

5th Villager: I'll second that. Just the other day I was telling my neighbours, Jason and Kylie, how well my cows were producing milk, when Grizzly Grizelda passes by and gives me a most peculiar look. The next day two of the cows were dead and the rest had stopped giving milk!

2nd Villager: You would wonder how the old Queen could have two such different children - Arabella the Good and Grizelda the Bad!

1st Villager: My only hope is that Grizelda doesn't turn up for the party. I heard from one of the servants up at the castle that she hadn't been invited.

3rd Villager: Ohh! I don't think she'll like that. She's going to be awfully mad. And when she gets mad you never know what she'll do.

5th Villager: I'll second that. Why, just

2nd Villager: Oh, shut up! You're always seconding everything. No wonder you never come first. Second with your marrow at the village fair, second in the election for mayor, you're even your wife's second husband.

4th Villager: That will do from you two. We've still got a lot of work to do if this place is going to be ready for the party. Come on, let's get on with it.

(*VILLAGERS carry on with their sweeping and cleaning*).

MUSIC 1a - VILLAGERS' SONG (reprise)

Villagers: *Pushing, pulling,
Showing all our children how to bow and curtsy.
Swishing, swaying
Soon the guests will be arriving for the party.*

SCENE 2

(At the Palace. KING and QUEEN standing watching the Guests milling about. Above them is a banner saying "HAPPY 18TH BIRTHDAY PRINCESS BELLE". Music is playing in the background).

King: What a splendid birthday party you have organised, my dearest.

Queen: Thank you, beloved, it is a mere nothing. It didn't take me any more than six months to throw this together.

King: You amaze me, light of my life, I thought you might have worked hard on this.

Queen: No! No, my tiddley-poos, it took no time at all.

King: Have all the guests arrived yet, my sweet?

Queen: No, not yet, dear heart, I think there are some more arriving just now.

(Fanfare of trumpets is heard off stage. MAJOR DOMO stands forward to announce the GUESTS. As GUESTS enter they hand their invitation cards to the MAJOR DOMO).

M.D.: Your Majesties, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen - may I announce the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Coddle and their - *(aside to AUDIENCE)* rather spoilt - daughter Molly.

May I introduce Mr. and Mrs. Latteley, the stamp collectors, and their son Phil.

General and Mrs. Ment and their son Reggie.

Mr. and Mrs. Mehat, the milliners, and their son Angus.

Mr. Youth, the snooker player, and his daughter Miss Spent Youth.

King: Well now, object of my affection, we seem to have all our guests here at last. Except I hope you haven't asked that disgustingly vile twin sister of yours.

Queen: Well, honeybunch, I did think about it but you know how jealous she is about what an awfully goody, goody witch I am and how lovely our daughter is. Our mother must be turning in her grave at the thought of how horridly bad Grizelda has turned out.

King: That is true, my precious. Never mind her, let's get on with the party. *(Loudly)*. Welcome everybody. I hope you will all enjoy this party so let us all start with the dancing. Music, Maestro, please.

(Music starts up and the KING and QUEEN lead the Guests in a dance. As the dance finishes a fanfare is heard and the PRINCESS BELLE enters).

King: *(to the PRINCESS)* Here you are at last my dear, you look radiant, ravishing, beautiful, splendid, dazzling and really quite enchanting.

Belle: Oh! Daddy, don't embarrass me in front of all these guests!

King: *(to the GUESTS)* All together now. One Two Three

All: *(singing)* **Happy Birthday to you,
Happy Birthday to you,
Happy Birthday Princess Belle,
Happy Birthday to you.**

(As the song finishes a large cloud of smoke appears. When it clears GRIZELDA is standing there looking angry).

Belle: Goodness! It's Auntie Grizelda!

Grizelda: Well, well, well!

Crowd 1: *(Aside)* Isn't that three holes in the ground?

Grizelda: I will ignore that comment - this time. *(To KING and QUEEN)* So you thought you could hold a birthday party for my beautiful niece without inviting her favourite aunt - in fact her ONLY aunt? WRONG! I know about everything thing that goes on in this palace.

MUSIC 2 - GRIZELDA'S SONG

Grizelda: *You thought you'd make a fool out of me
But I'll still have my way, wait and see.
Don't think I'll stop now
I'll make you hop now
No you won't make a fool out of me.*

*You made your list and you left me out,
But now I'll smile while you scream and shout.
I won't forget it
Soon you'll regret it
And you'll find out what pain's all about.*

*Well, I will outsmart you, have no fear!
Your peace of mind will soon disappear.
For all your cheating
You'll get a beating
Yes I will outsmart you, have no fear.*

(PRINCESS BELLE tries to sneak off Stage L. GRIZELDA strides quickly across the stage and grabs her by the scruff of the neck. BELLE screams).

Grizelda: Not so fast my pretty one. You're coming with me. I've got a LOVELY surprise for you! *(To rest of GUESTS)* If anyone tries to stop me it will be the worse for them.

Queen: Help! Help! Won't anyone help?

Mayor: *(striding forward)* Unhand the Princess you you you nasty person, you.

Grizelda: Ah ha! A hero silly boy.

(She waves her hand at the MAYOR. There is a large cloud of smoke and the MAYOR disappears).

King: What have you done with the Mayor you you you nasty person, you?

Grizelda: You will have to wait and see. The next time he does any huffing and puffing I don't think you will recognise him.

MUSIC 2a - GRIZELDA'S SONG (reprise)

Grizelda: *So things have not turned out as you planned
You now have witnessed my winning hand.
For in my tower
Your precious flower
Will find her life is not quite so grand.*

(GRIZELDA drags the PRINCESS off stage and the GUESTS, KING and QUEEN start to boo and hiss loudly).

Queen: Oh dear! Oh dear! Oh dear! Oh dear! Oh dear! Oh dear!

King: Oh.... shut up! *(To rest of GUESTS)* Well you lot, any ideas of how we're going to get the Princess back?

(GUESTS all shake their heads and start backing slowly off stage. The QUEEN also backs off dabbing her eyes with a handkerchief. KING watches all the GUESTS leave and turns to the QUEEN).

King: Well my pretty dove *(Turning to AUDIENCE)* Well would you believe it? You know who you can rely on in an emergency absolutely nobody!

SCENE 3

(*DRAGON is standing outside the door to the tower. The PRINCESS is seen - weeping - momentarily at the window above.*)

Dragon: ROOOAR, ROOAR. (*To AUDIENCE*) This roaring doesn't half make my throat sore. Mind you, it's not half as bad as breathing fire and incinerating people. It isn't even as if I enjoy doing it, either, but that wicked, ugly Grizelda has put some kind of spell on me that makes me frighten people away even though I really want them to stay and chat for a while.

MUSIC 3 - DRAGON'S SONG

Dragon: *It ain't much fun now I'm a dragon
'Specially when I used to be the mayor.
It ain't much fun now I'm a dragon
I'm tired of scorching skin and singeing hair.
I just wanna be, I just wanna be,
I just wanna be FREE!*

*My friends don't ever come to see me'
'Though they know I like to laugh and joke.
They know they've got to keep their distance
'Cos if they don't their clothes go up in smoke.
I just wanna be, I just wanna be,
I just wanna be FREE!*

(*DRAGON moves to the back of the stage and moves off. A group of VILLAGERS slowly enter, idly chatting, Stage L.*)

1st Villager: (*Looking towards tower window*) I don't know how that poor girl can sleep at night with all that roaring going on. Someone will have to do something about that dragon. Can't we get in touch with the Noise Abatement Society or something?

2nd Villager: You're all heart, aren't you? Never mind the poor girl sleeping at night, she's not been out of that tower for five years. How do you think she feels?

3rd Villager: Can't we get in touch with the St. George Society for the Prevention of Cruelty To Damsels and get something done?

2nd Villager: You're joking! That lot only seem to stand on market corners

dressed up in their shining armour and rattle their collecting boxes.

3rd Villager: Well I think something has got to be done; and done soon. If the Princess isn't released soon she'll be too old to be married and we won't have a King and Queen and lots of little Princes and Princesses.

1st Villager: If you're so keen to get something done, why don't you go and tackle the dragon yourself?

(Two VILLAGERS approach. The DRAGON eyes them up).

1st Villager: Isn't it a shame? That lovely young Princess, locked up in that tower by that *(looks quickly round)* ugly, vile Grizelda. Just because she wasn't invited to the birthday party.

2nd Villager: Isn't it awful? And to think that the poor Mayor was turned into that dragon that's looking at us from over there. Oh dear! I'm not too keen on the way he is eyeing us up.

(The DRAGON starts moving towards the two VILLAGERS. They start to move slowly backwards).

1st Villager: Have you ever had the feeling that you're not exactly welcome?

2nd Villager: Have YOU ever had the feeling that you should have put on your running shoes? Let's get out of here - and fast.

(VILLAGERS turn and run off stage. DRAGON advances to front of stage).

Dragon: Thank goodness for that! I thought that they were going to try and be brave. I've got to say, mind you, that not as many people seem to be willing to rescue princesses as they used to be.

(GRIZELDA enters with her GOBLINS, who surround the DRAGON. Music as they enter. The HOBGOBLINS dance around the DRAGON and the DRAGON tries to chase them away; they keep dodging).

MUSIC 4 - HOBGOBLINS' SONG

Hobgoblins: *We are hobgoblins,
 We don't like people
 We're really nasty
 To everyone*

*The witch Grizelda,
We are her servants
She gives us orders
We get them done.*

*We hate this dragon
Who guards the princess
She is imprisoned
In yonder tower.*

*We prod the dragon
When he is lazy
We like to show him
He's in our power.*

Grizelda: *(to the GOBLINS)* That will do my faithful goblins. Leave him. *(To the DRAGON)* Well, well, my pretty one. I hope you are still doing your job. I haven't heard any reports of anybody being burned lately. I hope you're not getting slack, now, or I'll have to send my little friends here to keep you on your toes, or should I say claws?

Dragon: One of these days, Grizelda, you are going to regret this.

Grizelda: Brave talk indeed, my scaly friend, but I can't see you doing much about it. I also think it's about time you remembered your manners. *(Turning to GOBLINS)* Remind this lizard how to treat the sister of a queen.

(The HOBGOBLINS then start taunting the dragon and annoying him).

MUSIC 4a - HOBGOBLINS' SONG (reprise)

Hobgoblins: *We hate this dragon
Who guards the princess
She is imprisoned
In yonder tower.*

*We prod the dragon
When he is lazy.
We like to show him
He's in our power.*

Grizelda: I hope that you will not forget your manners again, my fiery friend, and remember why you are there. I want you to frazzle anyone at all who comes to rescue the Princess Belle. I want her to stay in that tower until she is so old, ugly and wrinkled that nobody will ever want to marry her. Then this kingdom will be all mine, all mine to do with as I please. (*Cackling laugh*). Come my little goblin people, we've got evil things to do. We can't stay here all day being pleasant to this dragon.

(*GRIZELDA turns and, cackling, leaves the stage - the HOBGOBLINS follow to their music*). [*Play intro music 3 times*].

Dragon: If it wasn't for that spell she put on me I would fry her and her hobgoblins. I can't even stop myself frying those who I want to come and rescue the Princess. It just isn't fair.

MUSIC 5 - DRAGON'S SONG (reprise)

Dragon: *I hate that grizzled witch, Grizelda.
She's the only one that I can't touch.
I'd frizzle Grizzle into cinders
A blast like that would please me very much.
I just wanna be, I just wanna be free,
I just wanna be FREE!*

SCENE 4

(*Inside the tower the PRINCESS BELLE is sitting on a stool looking very sad and weeping*).

Belle: Oh! I'm so tired of being stuck up here in this tower all alone. What have I ever done to Aunt Grizelda? It's not my fault that she and my mother never got on. It just isn't fair. I'd only just arrived at my party when I was dragged off to this tower. It was good of the mayor to try and stop Aunt Grizelda and I do feel sorry for him now he's been turned into the dragon, but I do wish he could stop burning everybody who comes near. I haven't spoken to a soul for ages. Those goblins who bring me my food never say anything at all.

(A GOBLIN clatters in bringing a tray of food and a drink, collects the old tray and leaves).

Belle: That's exactly what I mean. It's getting so lonely that I'm even talking out loud to myself. It just isn't fair. I haven't got a friend in the whole, wide world. *(Starts sobbing).*

MUSIC 6 - PRINCESS BELLE'S SONG

Belle: *When will someone come and set me free?
Life is dreary, full of misery,
I'm so lonely, yearning for a friend.
Waiting sadly for each day to end.
Nights are endless, dreaming of my home,
Fields and forests where I used to roam.
How much longer will this spell be cast?
When will someone set me free at last?*

(A MOUSE creeps out of a hole and starts sniffing around the food tray. It is then followed by another one. They look at PRINCESS BELLE and then at each other. They nod to each other and approach the PRINCESS).

Simpkin: Don't cry, Princess Belle, we'd like to be your friends if you'd let us.

Timpkin: Yes, we would, if you'd let us.

Belle: *(looking up and drying her tears)* Would you? Would you really?

Simpkin: Yes we will, Princess Belle. My name is Simpkin Pettifer Towermouse, *(bowing)* and this is Timpkin Lemmington Towermouse, my first cousin, twice removed.

Timpkin: *(bowing)* Pleased to meet you, Princess Belle.

Belle: *(standing and curtsying)* Delighted to meet you, Simpkin Pettifer Towermouse and you, Timpkin Lemmington Towermouse.

Timpkin: The pleasure is all ours, dear Princess. I also think it might be easier if you just call us Simpkin and Timpkin, now we've got the formal introductions over.

Belle: Thank you both. I must say that I didn't realise that mice could talk.

Simpkin: Well, Princess, normally we only talk to each other and humans can't hear us. But this, of course, is an enchanted tower created by your wicked Aunt Grizelda.

Timpkin: That's right. And because of that, any animal or bird that is within these walls can be understood by humans. Only humans with good in their heart,

though. The likes of Grizelda and her goblins couldn't hear us, even if they wanted to.

Belle: That is amazing! Do you mean to say that I can speak to any creatures in this tower and they will understand me and be able to talk to me?

Simpkin: That's right.

Timpkin: Actually, Princess, we creatures always can understand humans but we don't always let on. *(At this two BIRDS fly up to the window and come into the room).*

Simpkin: Ah! Now, Princess, let me introduce you to two of my friends. This is Alfred Wingspeed Flightfellow and his very good friend Barney Arrowswift Windhover. Alfred and Barney will do nicely though.

Belle: I'm absolutely delighted to meet you both.

Alfred: A pleasure I'm sure.

Barney: Delighted to make your acquaintance, Princess.

Belle: This is so wonderful! Just a few minutes ago I was the loneliest person in the world. Now I've got four brand new friends. I can't believe how lucky I am.

(Music plays and PRINCESS BELLE and the four ANIMALS have a dance).

Alfred: I hope you don't mind me asking, Princess, but do you intend to eat all that food sitting on yonder plate? Only we've flown against quite a strong wind and we're absolutely tired out and starving.

Simpkin: Really, Alfred! You could have brought your manners with you.!

Belle: It doesn't matter, Simpkin, honestly. I'm not at all hungry so you are all more than welcome to share my food.

Barney: Thank you very much. It's much appreciated. I must apologise for my friend's manners, though, he does know better.

Belle: Don't worry about it, Barney. All of you, help yourselves. I'm so much happier now. I know that I've got some friends and somebody to talk to. If I have got to stay here for the rest of my life at least I'm not going to be lonely.

(The BIRDS and MICE eat the food quickly).

Alfred: That's better. Thank you very much Princess Belle. Now, perhaps we can do something for you and cheer you up a little bit.

(BIRDS and MICE do their Dance).

Belle: Thank you all. I feel much happier now. Any time you want to drop in for a

snack, please feel free to do so.

Barney: Thank you, again. Now, Alfred we really must be going. We'll come back and see you soon, Princess. Goodbye.

(ALFRED and BARNEY leave).

Belle: Goodbye, both of you.

Simpkin: At least you know you've got some friends now, Princess, and I've got a feeling in my whiskers that you may not need our friendship for as long as you might think.

(Exit SIMPKIN and TIMPKIN).

SCENE 5

(The VILLAGE SQUARE. VILLAGERS are milling around chatting. As PRINCE RAGWORT, the Sometimes Brave, struggles across the stage, looking very bedraggled, they look at him in disgust and turn their backs on him. He struggles across to the well).

Ragwort: By heck! That fellow who directed me to this village by that so called short-cut has got something to answer for. If I fell down one pot hole, I fell down a dozen! They've made a complete mess of my clothes. I had awful trouble at the gates persuading the guards that I really was Prince Ragwort, the Sometimes Brave. I only hope my trusty squire, Edwin, hurries up with my clean clothes. I am totally exhausted.

(He draws some water from the well and just as he puts the cup to his lips he collapses - moaning. QUEEN enters stage R).

Queen: Oh, my goodness! Look at what they are letting in through the village gates these days. I must have a word with the guards about the quality of beggars they let in. We don't want any old riff raff in this village, they make the place look so untidy. *(QUEEN goes over to PRINCE RAGWORT).* Excuse me ruffian, would you please mind moving on, I'm afraid we don't want your sort here, you know.

Ragwort: (*groaning as he sits up*) I'm dreadfully sorry, your Majesty. I did not mean to arrive here looking like this. I'm afraid as I was walking through the forest to get here I fell foul of a band of about twenty heavily armed robbers who were trying to rob me, of course I killed a few and beat the rest off with my trusty walking stick.

Queen: A hero! I didn't think there were any left in this kingdom! Oh you poor young man, let me tend to your wounds. (*QUEEN fusses around bathing RAGWORT'S wounds. RAGWORT moans dramatically every time she touches him*).

Ragwort: Thank you, your Majesty, you are such a good person.

Queen: Yes, that's true, I am.

Ragwort: I couldn't help but notice that rather large tower at the end of the square when I crawled up to the well. What is that place?

Queen: That is where the Princess Belle, my daughter, is imprisoned. (*QUEEN starts crying loudly*). She was put there by my rotten sister and she put a fierce and deadly dragon to guard her. No one who has tried to rescue my daughter has ever survived. But - (*she stares for a few moments at RAGWORT*) - we've never had a HERO in the town before.

Ragwort: Ah! Well! Yes! Goodness, look at the time. The sun will be going down soon. It's been very nice meeting you. Thank you for treating my wounds but I really must be going now. Goodbye.

[*Intro MUSIC starts*]. (*RAGWORT quickly stands and sets off. As he does so the PRINCESS BELLE appears at the tower window. He stops and stares at her*).

MUSIC 6a - PRINCESS BELLE'S SONG (reprise)

Belle: *When will someone come and set me free?
Life is dreary, full of misery,
I'm so lonely, yearning for a friend.
Waiting sadly for each day to end.
Nights are endless, dreaming of my home,
Fields and forests where I used to roam.
How much longer will this spell be cast?
When will someone set me free at last?*

Belle: Oh! Oh! When will someone come and rescue me from this terrible fate?

(*Sounds of violins are heard off stage*).

Ragwort: Gracious. Isn't she beautiful. I'm in love! (*Shouting up to BELLE*).
Fear not my Princess, I, Ragwort the Sometimes Brave, will save you.

Queen: Oh, thank you, thank you. If you manage to save my daughter from this terrible fate, and as long as she agrees, then we will give our immediate permission for you to marry.

Ragwort: Thank you, your majesty, nothing will please me more. Now I must go and think up a brilliant plan to save your daughter.

SCENE 6

(*PRINCE, front of stage, sings his Song*).

MUSIC 7 - PRINCE'S LOVE SONG

Ragwort: *I saw her face and suddenly I knew,
She was the one*

All: *She was the one*

Ragwort: *One glance at her and everything was new,
My fears were gone*

All: *His fears were gone.*

Ragwort: *I never thought I'd find
Someone to make me change my mind.*

All: *To change his mind.*

Ragwort: *She looked my way and all at once I knew -
I had to stay*

All: *He had to stay.*

All: *He never thought he'd find
Someone to make him change his mind.
To change his mind.*

Ragwort: *She looked my way and all at once I knew -
I had to stay*

All: *He had to stay.*

(*The Scene opens into the interior of a local tavern. Several VILLAGERS are sitting round, drinking [singing?] and eating. The PRINCE walks in.*)

Ragwort: Good evening, good landlord. Could you possibly let me have a room for the night?

Landlord: (*roughly*) No!

Ragwort: Come, come, my good fellow, surely you have a room available?

Landlord: No!

4th Villager: (*sounding posh!*) “Come, come, my good fellow”. Who does he think HE is?

5th Villager: Sounds a bit of a twit to me.

Landlord: Listen, you scruffy little man, I’ve said no rooms and that is what I mean.

Ragwort: I say, that is no way for an innkeeper to talk to a guest. Don’t you know who I am?

Landlord: No and I’m not really interested.

(*EDWIN, the PRINCE’s squire, enters the inn carrying a bundle of clothes and a sword*).

Ragwort: Ah! Edwin. Just in time as usual. Will you please tell this man who I am?

Edwin: Yes, my Prince, it will be a pleasure.

Landlord: My Prince!

Edwin: Yes. May I introduce to you Prince Ragwort, the Sometimes Brave.

Ragwort: Yes, I’m Prince Ragwort and I’m going to kill the dragon guarding the Princess Belle. When I’ve freed her I’m going to marry her.

Edwin: (*looking in amazement at the PRINCE*) You’re going to do what?

5th Villager: Going to kill the dragon! You and whose army? (*All in Tavern burst out laughing*).

Ragwort: (*stamping his foot*) I AM going to kill the dragon and I AM going to marry the Princess. The Queen said I could marry her if I killed the dragon.

Landlord: You just said you were going to marry the Princess, now you’re saying you’re going to marry the Queen! I don’t think the King would like that.

Ragwort: Don’t be so stupid. You know what I meant.

4th Villager: I think it’s you who are being stupid. Have you any idea how many people have already tried to kill the dragon?

Ragwort: No, not really.

5th Villager: One hundred and eighty. And every one of them was fried to a cinder.

Ragwort: How many?!

All Villagers: One hundred and eighty!

Ragwort: Oh! Is that all? You had me a little bit worried then. Now I’m terrified.

4th Villager: Oh don't be worried, I'm sure they didn't feel a thing.

Ragwort: That's very re-assuring. Thank you.

Landlord: What did you say your name was?

Edwin: Prince Ragwort.

Landlord: In that case, Prince Ragwort, I find I suddenly have a cancelled booking and I can now offer you, and your squire, a room.

Ragwort: Thank you, indeed.

Landlord: How long do you intend staying?

5th Villager: Just the night, if he's fighting the dragon!

Landlord: In that case I'd better have the money in advance, if you don't mind, just to be on the safe side. That will be twelve grotchets, please.

Edwin: Here you are.

Landlord: Thank you. Now, if you'll just sign the idiot's book, sorry, the visitor's book.

Ragwort: Of course, my pleasure.

BLACKOUT

SCENE 7

(The following morning, in the Tavern. PRINCE RAGWORT comes down for breakfast)

L'lord: Good morning, Prince Ragwort. I hope you slept well?

Ragwort: I slept like a top. I was turning round and round all night.

L'lord: Never mind. How about a good hearty breakfast? They say a condemned man, sorry, hero, should always start his day on a full stomach. *(Aside to AUDIENCE)* Even if the brain is empty.

Ragwort: Thank you, landlord, I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.

Landlord: I'm pleased to hear that, Prince Ragwort, for that is all that there is on the menu! The dragon has managed to eat all the rest of the animals for miles around.

Ragwort: Oh! Perhaps I'll just have a piece of bread and a drop of wine then.

Landlord: Certainly. If you'll just take a seat, I'll bring it over to you.

(RAGWORT goes and sits down. Several VILLAGERS creep in and stand round him as he eats his meal. VILLAGERS sing their version of the PRINCE'S song, mocking him. They start talking about him as if he is not there. As they

are talking he looks more and more terrified).

1st Villager: Are you sure that this is the hero that is going to kill the dragon and save the Princess?

3rd Villager: So they say. Doesn't look much like a hero to me.

2nd Villager: Weedy looking specimen, isn't he?

4th Villager: Looks can be deceiving.

5th Villager: Nobody's looks could be that deceiving!

1st Villager: Hey, do you remember that fellow who came to kill the dragon last Spring? Big fellow, bulging muscles, armed to the teeth. I think his name was Bimbo. No Rumbo? No, I've got it - Rambo. That was it. By heck, he didn't last long, did he?

2nd Villager: Oh, I remember. The dragon's eyes lit up when it saw that one. Best meal it had had for weeks.

4th Villager: That reminds me of that other fellow, liked eating strange pies. Dan, I think his name was. He was a desperate looking chap and no mistake. He lasted a fair while, though, took the dragon about twenty minutes to finish him off.

3rd Villager: What about that one who arrived on a big white horse? He was the one with that flashy suit of armour and the big lance. He was a good bloke. Just finished off a big dragon up north somewhere before he came to us, so he said. George, that was it. George something, or was it something George? Anyway, it's not important now.

5th Villager: I remember him. Didn't his armour glow in some lovely colours before it melted. Took us a week to scrape that off the square.

1st Villager: You don't think we're putting the Prince off do you?

2nd Villager: No, you can't put heroes off. It's the way they're made. Totally fearless, bold, unheeding of personal danger, gallant and courageous. Isn't that right, Prince? *(He slaps the PRINCE on the back. PRINCE nearly chokes).*

Ragwort: *(spluttering)* Of course. All us heroes are made like that. But I'm even more determined to save the beautiful Princess Belle. Her angelic face, her lovely hair, her deep blue eyes, her

4th Villager: Her eyes are brown!

Ragwort: Are they? Oh yes. Her deep brown eyes, rosy cheeks, lovely red lips.

3rd Villager: Yes, all right. I think we get the picture. You're in love.

All Villagers: Ugh!

Ragwort: I'd travel to the ends of the earth to rescue the Princess Belle.

1st Villager: There's no need to do that. She's only at the other end of the square.

Ragwort: She's so beautiful. It WILL be worthwhile facing all those dangers and

hardships so that I may take her hand in marriage, won't it?

4th Villager: Oh, yes, yes. Of course it will.

1st Villager: We're all sure you'll do your very best and love will conquer all. By the way, what are your favourite flowers?

Ragwort: Roses. Why do you ask?

1st Villager: No reason, really. We just like to know these things, just in case.

BLACKOUT

SCENE 8

(PRINCE RAGWORT and EDWIN enter the village square).

Ragwort: Oh my goodness, Edwin! What have I let myself in for? I've never even seen a dragon, let alone defeated one.

Edwin: But think of the prize if you do, Sire.

Ragwort: That is true, Edwin. She is so beautiful. It was love at first sight, you know.

Edwin: I had a feeling it was!

Ragwort: I cannot bear thinking about the lovely Princess Belle, locked in that awful tower. I am going to free her if it's the last thing I do. I'm going to kill that dragon and make that lovely girl my bride and live happily ever after. All I've got to do is kill the dragon. Oh, my goodness, Edwin, I've got to kill the dragon!

Edwin: Don't worry too much, Sire. Dragons can be defeated, though not all of them are the same.

Ragwort: What do you mean, not all of them are the same?

Edwin: Well, Sire, they come in all sorts of shapes, sizes and colours. Some of them can fly, some of them can breathe fire, some have scales made of iron and some, like this one, have all of these!

Ragwort: Thank you, Edwin, you are a great comfort to me, I don't think.

Edwin: I wouldn't worry too much, Sire. Dragon, including mayors who've been turned into dragons, all have two things in common.

Ragwort: And what, pray, might those be?

Edwin: They are greedy - they love gold and jewels and they hate water.

Ragwort: That IS good news! So what? I haven't got any gold and there's no water anywhere about here.

Edwin: Excuse me for saying so, Sire, but you are wrong. There is water, over there at the well.

Ragwort: Fine! We've got the water but we certainly haven't got the gold!

Edwin: That is true, but the dragon doesn't know that, does he?

Ragwort: No, I can see that. But how are we going to kill the dragon?

Edwin: WE aren't going to kill the dragon. YOU are!

Ragwort: ME! On my own? Won't you help?

Edwin: I can't help you, Sire, or the Princess won't think you're a hero.

Ragwort: Oh! I hadn't thought of that.

Edwin: Listen carefully, Sire . I think I've got a plan that should work.

Exeunt.

SCENE 9

(PRINCE RAGWORT is near the tower. The dragon is keeping an eye on him).

MUSIC 8 - I'LL SHOW I'M A MAN

Ragwort: *When I was just a little boy*
 My father said to me,
(spoken) "One day, my son, you'll be
 A man of courage. Wait and see".

But though I've waited patiently
I still can't see a sign.
I know that killing dragons
Just isn't in my line.

I shriek at the squeak of a mouse,
I shiver at the slither of a snake
A hairy caterpillar
Makes me hide under my pillar!

If I see a rat -
Then I scat!

*I choke at the croak of a frog
I wriggle at the wiggle of a worm.*

*But I'll show I'm a man,
By using Edwin's plan
And very soon the Princess will return.*

Choir: *But he'll show he's a man,
By using Edwin's plan
And very soon the Princess will return.*

Ragwort: I've got to say that young Edwin has come up with a splendid plan. Unfortunately he's right when he says that I'm the only one who can save the Princess. I only hope I'm worthy of the trust he's placed in me. I must go through with it if I want to marry the Princess Belle. I'm not called Prince Ragwort the Sometimes Brave for nothing though. (*RAGWORT walks warily towards the dragon*). Good day to you Mister Dragon.

Dragon: Good day to you, sir. It's a long time since I had a polite meal.

Ragwort: Good heavens! I didn't realise you could speak as well.

Dragon: Of course I can speak. Having said that, it's a long time since anyone took the trouble to speak to me, apart from Grizzly Grizelda. Most brave young meals, sorry, dragon slayers tend to rush straight at me without even a how-do-you-do! Most uncivilised.

Ragwort: Well now, I may not be many things but I am always civil to everyone I meet.

Dragon: I'm delighted to hear that. Unfortunately it is some little while since I had anything to eat and I'm feeling rather peckish. So, if you don't mind, can we forget the formalities? Now, if you wouldn't mind coming a little bit closer I'll be able to cook you thoroughly. I like my meat well done!

Ragwort: Hang on a minute! I haven't finished speaking.

Dragon: Oh yes you have.

Ragwort: No! No! Wait a minute. If you let me finish I might be able to tell you something that might please you.

Dragon: Go on then, what is it?

Ragwort: I believe that dragons, even special dragons like you, are rather partial to gold and jewels.

Dragon: Yeess, that is true. Having said that I haven't had much of an opportunity to collect any from here. Just the odd trinket or two from the occasional hero that passed down my throat!

Ragwort: That's what I thought. Well, I just happen to have heard that there is a

large hoard of gold and diamonds not very far from where we are standing right now.

Dragon: Really! Now, before I fry you, you will tell me where it is, won't you?

Ragwort: No, I won't.

Dragon: Oh, yes you will.

Ragwort: Oh, no I won't.

Dragon: Oh, yes you will. (*CHOIR and EVERYONE to join in*).

Ragwort: Oh, no I won't.

Dragon: Oh, yes you will.

Ragwort: O.K. I will.

Dragon: You will? Do you really mean it?

Ragwort: Yes, of course I mean it. But on one condition.

Dragon: What would that be.

Ragwort: That you don't fry me and eat me.

Dragon: Oh, hang on a minute. That's what I'm here for. I mean, if Grizzly Grizelda ever found out that I'd let someone go without frying them, my life wouldn't be worth a candle.

Ragwort: It's not worth an awful lot just now.

Dragon: Now that is a good point.

Ragwort: But if you had all the gold you could ever want, then it could comfort you in your old age.

Dragon: O.K. You've convinced me. Tell me where the loot is and I'll let you go. Honest. I promise.

Ragwort: All right, I'll tell you. You know when the King and Queen gave money to dig the well?

Dragon: Yes, I remember. In fact, I declared it open when I was the Mayor.

Ragwort: That's right. Well I heard, from a very reliable source, that the King and Queen got some of the guards to take all their treasure to the well and tip it down there.

Dragon: What did they do that for?

Ragwort: I was told that they were worried that Grizelda might try and steal it from them.

Dragon: Fair enough. Just who is your reliable source?

Ragwort: I shouldn't really tell you but it was one of the guards who helped to tip the treasure into the well.

Dragon: Well, that should be reliable enough Does that mean that all that lovely loot is just down at the bottom of that well over there?

Ragwort: That's right. Why don't you go over and have a look?

Dragon: I'd love to, but if Grizelda or her nasty little goblins find me gone from my post and not guarding the tower, it'll be the worse for me!

Ragwort: I'm sure they won't be along for a few minutes. Why don't I guard the tower for you while you pop over and have a quick look down the well at all that lovely gold, silver, diamonds, rubies, emeralds, sapphires

Dragon: All right. All right. You've convinced me. I'll just have a quick look. (*DRAGON starts to move towards the well. He stops and turns to the PRINCE*). Hang on a minute. Why are you telling me about all this lovely loot? Why haven't you got it for yourself?

Ragwort: Because I don't need it. I'm a prince in my own country and have all the wealth I will ever want. Besides, when I saw you standing here I felt very sorry for you and I knew that all that treasure would help to cheer you up.

Dragon: Nobody's felt sorry for me for years. Not since the day I was changed by Grizelda. It may have something to do with me having been frying anyone who came near, I'm not really sure. O.K. You stand here and guard the tower while I take a quick look down the well. (*DRAGON moves over to the well. RAGWORT starts to follow. DRAGON stops and looks round*). Don't forget to keep a good look-out.

Ragwort: Don't worry. I'll do that for you. (*DRAGON continues to the well. RAGWORT follows. When DRAGON reaches well RAGWORT rushes over and pushes DRAGON into the well - clouds of steam pour from the well*).

BLACKOUT

SCENE 10

(*The VILLAGERS come on stage, dancing, to celebrate the defeat of the DRAGON. There is a fanfare [Superman theme]. PRINCE RAGWORT, dressed as Superman, accompanied by PRINCESS BELLE and followed by the two MICE and the two BIRDS enter. The VILLAGERS cheer loudly*).

MUSIC 9 - PRINCE'S LOVE SONG (Reprise)

Rag. & Belle: *I saw her/his face and suddenly I knew,
She/he was the one*

Villagers: *She/he was the one.*

Rag. & Belle: *One glance at her/him and everything was new,
My fears were gone*

Villagers: *His/her fears were gone.*

Rag. & Belle: *I never thought I'd find
Someone to make me change my mind.*

Villagers: *To change his/her mind.*

Rag. & Belle: *She/he looked my way and all at once I knew -
I had to stay*

Villagers: *He/she had to stay.*

Villagers: *He/she never thought he'd/she'd find
Someone to make him/her change his/her mind.*

Villagers: *To change his/her mind.*

Rag. & Belle: *She/he looked my way and all at once I knew -
I had to stay*

Villagers: *He/she had to stay.*

*(PRINCE RAGWORT embraces PRINCESS BELLE. The VILLAGERS cheer.
KING and QUEEN enter).*

King: Well done, my boy. Congratulations on ridding us of the dragon and setting my daughter free. *(VILLAGERS cheer again).*

Ragwort: It was nothing, Sire. I did it because it was a job that had to be done.

Queen: Oh you brave young man. I think you're wonderful.

Ragwort: Oh, your Majesty, you're only saying that because it's true.

King: Now then, Prince Ragwort, I believe my wife made a promise to you.

Ragwort: Yes, Sire. She promised that I could marry your beautiful daughter if I saved her from the dragon. That is if your daughter was willing.

King: Did she now? *(Turning to BELLE)* Well, my daughter, are you willing to marry Prince Ragwort?

Belle: Oh, yes Daddy. I think he's the most wonderful thing since sliced bread!

King: What is sliced bread? Oh, never mind. That's settled then. *(Turning to QUEEN)* Now, my turtle dove, you appear to have another little celebration to organise.

Queen: Oooh! I have, my little sweetmeat, and I'm really going to go to town with this one.

King: I'm sure that we will all look forward to that, my little puddle-tum.

(GRIZELDA'S tune heard on piano. There is a large cloud of smoke and GRIZELDA appears. VILLAGERS boo and hiss. GRIZELDA advances towards BELLE and PRINCE RAGWORT stands in front of her).

Grizelda: Well! Well! Well! And I don't want any funny comments this time.

What a wonderful, happy gathering we have here.

Ragwort: What do you want, you you you nasty person, you?

Grizelda: So this is our superman, is it? Not much of a specimen! My plan is not to be changed just because I've lost one dragon. I can just as easily provide myself with another one. (*GRIZELDA raises her hand to cast a spell on RAGWORT. The MICE and BIRDS rush forward and surround GRIZELDA, flapping and dodging around her. She is gradually pushed towards the well. With one final push by the animals she disappears down the well. Clouds of smoke come from the well. Everybody cheers loudly. The MAYOR re-appears slightly dazed and moaning.*)

Mayor: Oh, my head hurts. I was just crawling out of that well, and I don't know what I was doing down there, when something landed on me and knocked me back down. The place was full of steam!

1st Villager: You've just bumped into your old friend Grizelda again! She was on her way down as you were on your way up.

2nd Villager: Welcome back, Mr. Mayor. It's good to see you again.

Mayor: It's nice to be my old self again. I was getting pretty fed up of having to frazzle everybody who came near.

Ragwort: I hope you don't hold it against me for tipping you down the well.

Mayor: Not at all, my good fellow, I'm really rather pleased you did.

King: We're all pleased to see you again Mr. Mayor, welcome back.

Mayor: Thank you, your highness.

MUSIC 10 - MAYOR'S SONG

*I feel so much better now the spell's gone.
I'm happy stepping out and having fun.
My friends all say they're really glad to see me,
We laugh and talk of things that we have done.
I'm so glad to be, I'm so glad to be,
I'm so glad to be FREE!*

Queen: Isn't all this exciting? Our daughter back, the mayor back to his old self again and my evil twin sister completely disappeared. (*The CROWD cheer loudly.*) I wonder what will become of her?

King: Never mind old Grizzly Grizelda, you've got a lot of organising to do, my little sweetikins.

Queen: You're quite right as usual, my little pumpkin. I must go soon and start organising the wedding.

MUSIC 11 - WEDDING CALYPSO

All: *There's going to be a wedding,
Oh, what a lovely day.
We'll all be there to see it,
Let's chase the blues away.*

*There's going to be a wedding,
We'll all be there to see.
Ragwort is now a hero,
He's set the Princess free.*

*Da, da, da, da, da,
Da, da, da, da, da,
We'll all be there to see;
Da, da, da, da, da,
Da, da, da, da, da,
He's set the Princess free.*

*There's going to be a wedding,
Oh, what a lovely day.
Everyone will be happy.
Let's chase the blues away.*

Edwin: (*stepping forward*) Three cheers for Prince Ragwort and Princess Belle.
Hip hip

All: Hooray.

Edwin: Hip hip

All: Hooray.

Edwin: Hip hip

All: Hooray.

(*ALL leave the stage, apart from EDWIN, singing*).

MUSIC 11a - WEDDING CALYPSO (Reprise)

Edwin: *There's going to be a wedding,
Oh, what a lovely day.
Everyone will be happy.
Let's chase the blues away.*

*Da, da, da, da, da,
Da, da, da, da, da,
We'll all be there to see;
Da, da, da, da, da,
Da, da, da, da, da,
He's set the Princess free.*

Edwin: And so our story comes to a close. In the way of all good stories, everybody lived happily ever after.

(As the lights begin to fade out a voice is heard off stage).

Grizelda: *(cackling)* That's what they think!

THE END

