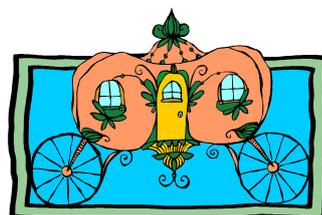


Spotlight Publications

Cinderella

**A pantomime by
Dave Buchanan**



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Cinderella

CAST (in order of appearance)

Dandini, the Prince's PA
Tiger Lily
Trixibelle) the Ugly Sisters
Baron Hardup
Lady Hardup
Buttons
Cinderella, the Baron's daughter
Sandy
Andy) the Handymen
Prince Charming
Fairy Fozzle
Mia & Lida, native girls
Colin the Gorilla
Sir Brucey, Craig, Len & Bruno, of *Strictly* fame

Chorus of servants, native girls and ballroom guests

Scenes - the village square of Boddington, Hardup Hall, a South Seas island, and Compton Castle
 Time - long ago

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT 1

- Scene 1 - The village square of Boddington
- Scene 2 - Front of curtain
- Scene 3 - The living room of Hardup Hall
- Scene 4 - A woodland
- Scene 5 - The living room of Hardup Hall
- Scene 6 - The sisters' *boudoir*
- Scene 7 - A South Seas island

ACT 2

- Scene 1 - On the road to the Castle
- Scene 2 - The Grand Ballroom at Compton Castle
- Scene 3 - A corridor in Hardup Hall
- Scene 4 - The living room of Hardup Hall
- Scene 5 - Front of curtain
- Scene 6 - Hardup Hall

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

1. "Shine" (Take That) (Dancers & Chorus)
2. "Price Tag" (Jessie J) (Tiger Lily & Trixibelle)
3. "My Favourite Things" (The Sound of Music) - new words by D Buchanan (Cinderella)
4. Aerobics Dance (Ugly Sisters & Dancers)
5. "I Want To Break Free" (Queen) (Prince)
6. "Tomorrow" (Annie) (Cinderella)
7. "Born This Way" (Lady Gaga) (Cinderella)
8. "Blue Suede Shoes" (Elvis Presley) (Buttons)
9. "Yellow Bird" (Chorus & Dancers)
10. "King of the Swingers" (Jungle Book) (Gorilla & Chorus)
11. "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy" (Junior Dancers)

ACT 2

12. "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" (Baron, Lady Hardup & Sisters)
13. Waltz (Guests)
14. "Rapping" (Words - D Buchanan) (Sisters)
15. Strictly Come Dancing Interlude (optional)
16. "Supercallifragilistic Expialidocious" (Mary Poppins) (Fozzie)
17. "What Makes You Beautiful" (One Direction) (Prince)
18. Community Song: "Let's Fall In Love" (Cole Porter) - new words by D Buchanan (Sisters)
19. "Im Gonna Be (500 Miles)" (Proclaimers) (Company)

N.B. This list of songs is only the author's recommendation. All songs are at the discretion of the Musical Director.

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NOTE ON THE PRINCIPALS

The Ugly Sisters. Tiger Lily is the more assertive of the two, and bosses her sister. Trixibelle is more gormless, but can hold her own extremely well. Normally the sisters go hammer and tongs at each other, but in a crisis they close ranks and are very supportive. Much involved in the action, and have songs to sing.

Prince Charming is a traditional principal boy, can be played by a boy or a girl. Singing part.

Dandini is a lively and humorous character, can be played by a man straight or by a woman as a second Principal Boy.

Baron Hardup. A part for a mature man. He is one of the main comic parts of the panto, a hen-pecked husband who gets his own back. Sings in a quartet.

Lady Hardup. A very strong part for a mature woman. A shrew who initially dominates her husband, Lady Hardup has a good relationship with her daughters. The part requires a good comic touch and is not unsympathetic. Also sings in the quartet.

Buttons. The ideal counterpart to anyone else, Buttons is a strong comic role and is onstage for most of the time. Singing part.

Cinderella. Not a faint-hearted heroine by any means, Cinderella is a strong central character with a lot of spirit. Is much involved and has songs to sing.

Fairy Foozle is a streetwise character who is always getting things wrong. But she in no way resembles the traditional Fairy Godmother! Singing part.

Sandy & Andy. The typical comedy duo, the Handymen are involved in standard comic routines, and can be played by either men or women.

Mia & Lida. Native girls from Honolulu who appear only in Act 1 Scene 7

Sir Brucey, Craig, Len & Bruno appear only in the *Strictly Come Dancing* Interlude.

PROLOGUE

Front of curtain (or tabs) is set a table with the crystal slippers displayed. This may be set for display before the audience come in. Just before the show is ready to start, a junior member of the cast comes and removes the slippers. Two other juniors then remove the table and bow before exiting

ACT 1

Scene 1

The village of Boddington. A typical village square, with backdrop of shops, etc.

The Chorus of villagers is onstage for the first number

Song 1

The Chorus exits

Dandini appears R with a bell and a scroll

Dandini Hello, everybody! My name is Dandini and I am the Prince's PA. Sounds pretty impressive, don't you think? Yes, personal assistant - who said dogsbody? Well, I suppose I am a kind of gopher - go for this, go for that! I'm on a mission at the moment - hope it's not a Mission Impossible. I love Tom Cruise, don't you, girls? Well (*looking around*) this is the village of Boddington, and just over there is the Prince's pad - Compton Castle - you can see it from Tesco's car park! Anyway, the Prince is lonely (*he elicits an "Ah!" from the audience*). So he and I had this cunning plan.... Look, why don't you sit back and watch?

He rings the bell, and the villagers assemble

Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!

Villagers Oh no!

Dandini Listen, I've got some good news for you lot!

Villager 1 Well get on with it then!

Dandini All right I will then. (*He clears his throat, and holds up the scroll*) "To all of whom it may concern -"

Villager 2 Just get to the gist!

Villager 1 Aye, just the gist!

Dandini Okay okay! Impatient lot! Right, let me see. "His Royal Highness, Prince Charming -"

There are Oohs and Ahs from the mainly female crowd

"- Lord of Boddington, Twitterington, and Much Mincing-in-the-Marsh, has decreed that there will be a ball at Compton Castle -"

Villagers Ooh!

Dandini "on the 20th (*or whatever*) of December, to which all local girls are invited." What do you think of that then?

Everyone is very impressed and they start discussing it animatedly

At this point, enter R Tiger Lily and Trixibelle, the Ugly Sisters

Tiger Lily Look, Trixi, over there! A proclamation!

Trixibelle Oh goody, I do like proculations!

Tiger Lily Stand aside, you plebs! Make way for ladies of quality!

There are loud jeers

Villager 1 That's a laugh! Your mother used to peel prawns at the Foody Fish Factory!

Laughs

Tiger Lily What a bloomin' cheek!

Trixibelle And it's a bloomin' lie, anyway!

Villagers Oh no it isn't!

Trixibelle Yes it is! It was the Fishy Finger Factory she worked at! Na-na na-na-na!

Laughs

Tiger Lily Such crude remarks don't deserve a reply, Trixi. We'll totally disregard them.

Trixibelle And we won't take any notice either, sis!

Tiger Lily In any case, origins don't matter.

Trixibelle Oh I like oranges, Lily. Especially Jaffas.

Tiger Lily Origins, you twit! That means where we came from!

Trixibelle All right, keep your bloomers on!

Tiger Lily What matters is what we are now. And we are certainly superior to you lot!

Villagers Rubbish! Rhubarb! *Etc.*

Villager 2 The only thing you two have got more of is fat!

Laughs

Tiger Lily Beasts! (*To Dandini*) Oy! You with the big thingy!

Dandini Who me?

Tiger Lily Yes. Be so good as to carry on with the proclamation.

Dandini But I've finished!

Tiger Lily What?

Dandini That's right. Finito, kaput, end of story. And now I'm away home to watch TOWIE. It's my favourite TV programme.

Trixibelle I like the Teletubbies.

Villager 1 She looks like a Teletubby!

Laughs

Tiger Lily But listen, I insist.

Dandini Insist all you like, Madam, but I'm off. Unless -

Tiger Lily Unless?

Dandini - you were to cross my palm with silver.

Tiger Lily Trixi, give him 5p.

Trixibelle I've only got a fifty.

Dandini (*grabbing it*) That'll do! Now I'll give you a *resumé*.

Trixibelle (*to Tiger Lily*) Is he being cheeky? (*To Dandini*) Are you being cheeky, sunshine?

Dandini I was merely asking Madam, if you would like a summary. Or would you like a wintery, boom boom?

Tiger Lily We are not amused.

Dandini In a nutshell -

Trixibelle Oh goody, I like nuts as well as oranges -

Tiger Lily Trixi -

Trixibelle Especially these cashier nuts -

Tiger Lily Cashew!

Trixibelle What?

Tiger Lily Cashew!

Trixibelle Oh bless you! You know, I'm quite partial to pekingese nuts, as well -

Tiger Lily Will you shut your cakehole!

Trixibelle Sorry I spoke!

Dandini Prince Charming is having a ball at the Castle, to which all eligible females are invited.

Trixibelle Ooh fancy!

Villager 1 He did say eligible females.

Tiger Lily So?

Villager 2 That lets you two out!

Tiger Lily Saucy so-and-so!

Trixibelle Well I am certainly illegible!

Tiger Lily Silly cow! That means you can't read!

Villager 1 Aye, she can't read or write!

Tiger Lily Right, Trixi, we are goin' to forget we're ladies and knock the living daylights out of these two!

Trixibelle Oh goody, a scrap!

Dandini Can I hold your jackets, ladies?

Tiger Lily Get him too, sis!

The sisters converge on Dandini, but he ducks and they barge into each other and fall heavily, amidst laughter

Trixibelle Boo-hoo! I landed right on me beam end, sis! Me posterity's paralysed and me fibula's fractured!

Tiger Lily Never mind them, Trixi. We've still got each other.

The crowd drifts away. The curtains close behind them as the sisters sing

Scene 2

Front of curtain. Tiger Lily and Trixibelle sing:

Song 2

The sisters exit L as Baron Hardup enters R

Baron Hello, everyone! I'm Baron Hardup and do you know something? - I've been very unlucky in my marriages. I have, really. Take my first wife, and I wish somebody had! I wouldn't say she was ugly, but the Christmas before last she stood under the mistletoe waiting for someone to kiss her and she was still waiting at Easter! One day we were sitting there having tea and out of the blue she suddenly announced, "I've decided I want to be cremated." So I said, "Alright, get your coat!" I still remember the day I lost her. *(Sob)* Yes, she went down to Gala Bingo and never came back! I was forced to marry for money. My second wife turned out to be a real dragon.

A raucous female voice is heard offstage L

Lady Hardup Hector! Hector, where are you?

Baron Oh Lord!

He dithers, then hides behind the curtain. Enter Lady Hardup, L

Lady Hardup Hector! Come out wherever you are! I want you! You can't hide from me. *(To audience)* You haven't seen the Baron, have you? *("No!")* You can easily recognise him. He's a spineless jellyfish of a man. Are you sure you haven't seen him? *("Yes!")* You're not kidding me, are you? *("No!")* I think you are. Oh yes you are! *("Oh no we're not!")* I'll find him anyway.

She goes off R, still shouting. The Baron peeps out

Baron That was a close shave! Listen, kids, would you like to be my early warning system? When you see the old battle-axe coming, I want you to shout, "Look out, Baron!"

Buttons appears R

Got that? Are you sure? Tell you what. Buttons, you pretend to be Lady Hardup.

Buttons Right-o, Your Worship. Here I come.

The Baron stands C, and they do their routine. Buttons pretends to be the Baroness, and the kids go, "Look out, Baron!"

The second time, Lady Hardup appears

Baron Now remember, kids, if you see the old bat coming, you let me know quick.

The audience by this time should be going frantic

Lady Hardup So I'm an old bat, am I?

Baron (*spluttering*) Certainly not, my little chickadee. I was talking about somebody quite different, wasn't I, kids?

The audience shouts ("Yes!")

There you are, my angel. Buttons will confirm it too, won't you, Buttons old chap?

Buttons Of course, Your Honour.

Lady Hardup Huh! Who wants the opinion of a menial?

Buttons Who's she calling a meanie?

Lady Hardup You idiot. Leave us. Alone. Get it?

Buttons Yes, Your Starship. I'll go and get one from HSBC. Or Northern Rock.

Lady Hardup Get what, you moron?

Buttons A loan. What you said.

Lady Hardup Get out!

Buttons But -

Lady Hardup Get!!

Buttons exits R

Hector, he'll have to go.

Baron Who?

Lady Hardup Why Buttons, of course.

Baron But he has gone!

Lady Hardup No, no. I mean Buttons can no longer remain a servant at Hardup Hall.

Baron I quite agree.

Lady Hardup You do?

Baron Yes, he should be promoted. At least to Major-Domo, whatever that means.

Lady Hardup I meant he should be dismissed.

Baron Dismissed? You can't do that!

Lady Hardup I can and I will.

Baron But Buttons is indispensable. Not only that, I can't do without him! I mean, who would bring me my breakfast in bed? Who would put my crown on? Who would stir my tea? No, no, no. I'll say that again. No, no, no. You've gone too far this time, Henrietta. This is a sad state of affairs. A pretty kettle of fish. A situation up with which I will not put. In short, I will not dismiss Buttons!

Lady Hardup (*menacingly*) And if I say you will?

Baron - I'll go and do it right away!

Lady Hardup Good. Give him twenty four hours notice. And no pay.

The Baron shrugs his shoulders and slinks off R

What a wimp! (*She exits L*)

Buttons reappears UR

Buttons Hi, boys and girls. Hello, is there any life out there?

Listen, you'll have to do much better than that. This is the audience participation bit. Come on, stood up! Everybody, stood up! No, missus, no exceptions. I don't care if you've got bunions, or Arthritis, or even the screaming abdabs! This is the daft bit, where everybody loses their inhibitions and looks very foolish into the bargain!

He goes into the audience and makes sure that everybody is standing up

I want everybody to turn to the person on their right and shake hands. Go on, do it! (*This confuses everybody*) Now, are we all ready? I said, are we all ready? Oompah oompah - (*"Stick it up your jumpah!"*) Do you feel better now? Relaxed? Then I shall begin. When I appear, I want you all to shout out at the top of your voices, "Hi-ya, Buttons!" Shall we practise? Hi-ya, kids!

Practice ad-lib

Then he goes over to L of the proscenium arch where there is a large mock-up of a bell push with a notice underneath saying "Do not push this button"

Listen, kids, will you help me? (*"Yes!"*) If you see anyone go to push the button, I want you to tell me right away. Will you do that? (*"Yes!"*) Now remember, if you see anyone trying to push, shout for Buttons. Did you see the Baron? Poor man. What a woman that Baroness is. Godzilla with a frock on! You should see her daughters, they're worse! Oh you've seen them, have you? Tiger Lily and Trixibelle, the Gruesome Twosome. The refugees from the Chamber of Horrors. You know, once they went to Madame Tussaud's and they were told by the attendant to keep moving - they were stocktaking! And I'm not joking! I'm not! And do you know, the three of them make life miserable for poor Cinderella. Have you met her yet? No? Well, you will. Oh, she's lovely! (*He sighs*) And (*shyly*) I'm in love with her. Honest. I'm smitten. But she doesn't know it. Unrequited love.

He encourages the audience to say, "Ah!"

One of these days, though, I'm going to go right up to Cinderella and tell her -

He goes down on his knee just as Cinderella appears L

And I'll say to her, "Cinderella -"

Cinderella What are you going to say to me, Buttons?

Buttons Cinderella, I -

Cinderella Yes?

Buttons Cinderella, I've something very important to tell you.

Cinderella I'm all ears, Buttons.

Buttons It's -

Cinderella Yes?

Buttons It's - your stepmother.

Cinderella What about her?

Buttons She wants to see you.

Cinderella Is that all?

Buttons I suppose it can wait.

Cinderella It certainly can. Bye, Buttons.

She begins to exit R

Buttons Bye, Cinders. Oh Cinders!

Cinderella (*coming back*) Yes?

Buttons Cinders, would you like a little bet with me?

Cinderella What sort of bet, Buttons?

Buttons Well, I bet you fifty pence I can kiss you on the lips without touching you.

Cinderella Oh Buttons, that's silly. How can you do that?

Buttons You bet me the fifty pence and I'll show you how it's done.

Cinderella Kiss me on the lips without touching me?

Buttons Yes. Go on then, bet.

Cinderella All right then, I bet.

Buttons Close your eyes.

She closes her eyes and he kisses her full on the lips, then falls flat on his back

Cinderella But you did touch me, Buttons.

Buttons (*getting up*) Yes, I know. You win. Here's your fifty pence, but boy, was it worth it!

She chases him off

Scene 3

The living room of Hardup Hall

Seated L, is Cinderella

Cinderella Hello, everybody, my name's Cinderella and (*sigh*) I have a tough life. (*Audience goes, "Ah!"*) Oh, it's much tougher than that! (*"Ah!!"*) I have to wash and sweep ten hours a day seven days a week. (*"Ah!"*) I wish I'd been born in the twenty first century. I mean they might even have women Prime Ministers by then. I wonder what it'd be like to be a girl of my age in the twenty first century. (*Pause*) I feel a song coming on.

Song 3

Toffees and chocolates and strawberry ices,
Burgers and doughnuts and chicken fried rices,
Nice Christmas prezzies all tied up with string,
These are a few of my favourite things.

Makeup and perfume and gel for my tresses,
High heels and lipstick and tight little dresses,
Blue jeans and hipsters and lockets and rings,
These are a few of my favourite things.

Love my mobile -
And my Ipod -
And my DVDs;
I take all my credit cards,
Go to the shops,
And then I buy what I please!

(*Sighs*) But it isn't the twenty first century, is it?

Buttons appears R

Hi, Buttons!

Buttons Hi, Cinders! You all right?

Cinderella I'm all right, you all right?

Buttons Heard the Big News?

Cinderella No.

Buttons At the Castle. His Royal Nibs is having a ball.

Cinderella So what's new?

Buttons No, a real ball. Jigging and all that. And he's invited all the local girls. Could be good news for some lucky girl.

Cinderella Fancy!

At this point Lady Hardup enters R

Lady Hardup Cinderella! Come here!

Cinderella Yes, stepmother.

Lady Hardup Why are you not working?

Cinderella I've finished all my chores, stepmother.

Lady Hardup What, all of them? Washed the dishes, made the beds, dusted the rooms, polished the brass, fed the cat, walked the dog, washed and ironed the girls' clothes?

Cinderella Yes, stepmother.

Cinderella and Buttons give each other the thumbs-up sign

Lady Hardup What are you grinning at, you menial?

Buttons Nothing, Your Battleship!

Lady Hardup Ladyship! Call me Your Ladyship, you twit!

Buttons All right Your Ladyship, you twit!

Lady Hardup I've a good mind to dismiss you on the spot, but my husband will be attending to that - what am I paying you for anyway?

Buttons You haven't paid me for three weeks, Your Hardship!

Lady Hardup That's neither here nor there.

Buttons Well where is it then?

Cinderella

Dave Buchanan's update of his much-performed version of the classic tale. And there is much to enjoy: the vintage car scene, knockabout comedy with the Handymen, and a colourful scene set in the South Seas, which occurs when Fairy Foozle loses her bearings. Cinderella gets to dress up as Lady Gaga, while the Sisters do a rap and dance in a special edition of Strictly Come Dancing. Plus, there are new parody lyrics for Richard Rodgers's "My Favourite Things" and Cole Porter's "Let's Fall In Love".

Plot Summary

Cinderella lives at Hardup Hall with her father, Baron Hardup, but has rather a hard time at the hands of stepmother Lady Hardup and stepsisters Tiger Lily and Trixibelle. The latter are determined that Cinderella shall not go to Prince Charming's Grand Ball, but the Baron and his staff, Buttons, are equally determined that she *shall*. And of course she does, with the help of Fairy Godmum Foozle.

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