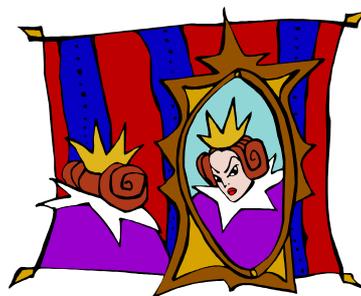


Spotlight Publications

Snow White In Verse

**A mini-panto written
By Dave Buchanan**



Snow White In Verse

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CAST

Oddjob

Queen Belladonna

Wally Wimpole

Mavis Goodbody, the Dame

Snow White

Prince Charlie

Dwarfs:

Bossy

Cheery

Grouchy

Simon

Lofty

Lenny

Coolio

N.B. It's important that Lofty is the smallest Dwarf, for comic effect.

Set - various, including the Palace, the forest and the Dwarfs' cottage

PRODUCTION NOTES

The pot plant

This is done by hooking a piece of fishing line on the plant which goes right up the proscenium arch and down the inside where it is pulled every time the plant is watered. The plant must have a great long stem hidden in the pot. It's a bit tricky to do but is well worth the effort.

Scene 1

The Royal Palace. Enter Oddjob R

Oddjob Hi, everybody! Are you alright? ("Yes!")
Well—this is the story of Snow White.
Are you sitting comfortably? I'll begin.
There once lived a horrible queen
Called Belladonna, who was so vain
That she looked in her mirror again and again.

Enter Queen L, with a hand-mirror

Queen (to audience) All right, you can start your boos,
But I've got nothing to lose.
(She looks in the mirror) Ah, perfection!

Song 1: "I Feel Pretty" (Queen)

Mirror mirror in my hand,
Who is the fairest in the land?

Oddjob comes on carrying a large empty frame in front of him/her

Oddjob (giggling, to the audience)
Guess what, folks, I'm the mirror now,
Yes, really—but don't ask me how.
Your Majesty, shall I go ahead?

Queen Get on with it, you dunderhead!

Oddjob (clears his throat)
Of all the girls that I have seen
You are the prettiest, O Queen.
Except for one -

Queen Her name! Quickly, I insist!

Oddjob Don't get your knickers in a twist!
Her name's Snow White -

Queen No! Not her!

Oddjob Your stepdaughter, yessir!
(To the audience)

The Queen is enraged, overwrought,
And in her mind is only one thought—

Queen I absolutely really hate her,
I'll eliminate, obliterate her!

The Queen exits, ranting. Oddjob also exits

Enter R Wally, carrying a pot plant and a watering can. He also wears gloves

Wally Hi, mums and dads, hi, girls and boys! (Reaction)
Everybody now, come on, feel the noyse!
(Indicates the pot plant and watering can)
Can you think what I'm into? Come on, guess!
Yeh, that's right, missus, it's gardening, yes!
(Takes off his gloves to reveal his fingers are painted green)
Look, green fingers, would you Adam and Eve it?
My name's Wally Wimpole, you gotta believe it.
Listen, kids, when I come on will you shout
"Hi, Wally"? Will you do that? ("Yes!") Let's try it out.

He goes off and comes back on, and they do it once or twice

Do you like my pot plant? ("Yes!") It's got a name,
 But I've forgotten it. Something flame.
 Isn't it lovely? It grows very quick.
 But it needs water, or it'll get sick.

He waters it, and the plant grows

Tell you what, when I appear
 Just shout "Water the plant!" I'll put it here.

He places it downstage Right

Let's practise now. You won't forget? ("No!")
 You'll be very good at it, I'll bet.

*He goes off and comes back on. The kids go, "Water the plant, Wally!" He does so and the plant gets higher.
 Everybody goes, "Whooo!"*

Enter R the Dame, Mavis Goodbody

Mavis Hello, Wally. I've just seen the Princess—

I remember being her age.

Wally Oh yes?

Mavis Not so long ago.

Wally Oh yes?

Mavis I think it's time that we got wed.

Wally Mavis, what on earth was that you said?

Mavis A girl can't wait forever, you know.

Wally I guess you're right, but wait a mo,
 Marriage is a circus—three ring,
 Engagement ring, wedding ring, suffering!

Mavis My sister Elsie's just got wed
 To an Irishman called Fred.

Wally Oh really?

Mavis No, O'Reilly!

Ah, Snow White's got so much going for her.

Her only problem is that awful horror.

Wally What Godzilla? You know the one I mean—
 The Creature from the Black Lagoon?

Mavis (*nods*) The Queen.

Wally Tell you what, she doesn't frighten me.

No she doesn't, no sirree!

If she was here—here right now

I'd give her a piece of my mind—and how!

At this very moment the Queen appears UL, unseen by Wally

I'd give her a right verbal bashing—
 A real tongue-lashing.

Mavis tugs his sleeve and gestures towards the Queen, who is now bearing down on him

I'd say to her, "Queen,
 You may be mean,
 But I don't care—"

Mavis is still gesturing. He looks around and sees her, then turns back to Mavis

She's standing there,

Isn't she?

He does a double take, gives a silent scream and jumps into Mavis' arms. She drops him

Queen What would you say to me, you twit?

Wally I'd say -

Queen Yes?

Wally (*smiling sweetly*) Nice day, isn't it?

Mavis Look here, Queenie, you leave him be,
Or you'll have to deal with little me.

Queen Call me Your Majesty, you old bat.

Mavis All right, Your Majesty, you old bat!

Queen I think I'll have you both dismissed—

Mavis But we're on King Stanley's list.

Queen I'll speak to the King. Goodbye.

You're flunkies, remember, so try

To flunk in a menial sort of way.

Mavis Oh very well, Your Battleship. Good day.

Come on, Wally. We've better things to do.

Wally (*defiantly*) Much better things. Me and you.

They exit, Mavis flouncing. The audience boo

Queen You just watch who you're booing!

Or else you might be ruing

The day you came up against me.

It'd be no contest, you see.

For I am the greatest, the best,

The most beautiful, the cleverest

In the whole universe—

Oh yes I am. ("*Oh no you're not!*")

I am definitely *numero uno*.

Shall I tell you my plan? D'you know

What? It concerns Snow White. Oh yes!

How to get rid of her—can you guess?

Snow White appears R

(*To audience*) Just watch me. Snow White, my dear.

Snow White Hello, Stepmother.

Queen Come over here.

Here is a gift for your birthday.

She produces a small box, gift-wrapped and gives it to Snow White

Snow White (*opening it*) Lovely, what can I say?

Thank you, Stepmother.

Snow White eventually puts the ring on

Queen A mere bagatelle. But I have another

Surprise for you, my dear. If you go

To the Palace Gardens, just below

The nursery window, you'll find

A picnic laid for you—

Snow White A picnic? How kind!

Queen Go right now, don't delay,

And I hope you have a lovely day.

Snow White All right I will. Goodbye, and thank you. (*She exits R*)

Queen Excellent, excellent. The time is near

For phase two. *(She makes a pass)* Wimpole, come here.

Almost immediately Wally appears at R, as if in a daze

Wally *(to audience)* Funny! One minute I was drinking beer
In the kitchen, and the next I'm here.

He turns to see the Queen and screams

Help! It's Godzilla!

Queen Come here, Wimpole.

Wally No way, José.

Queen *(domineering)* Are you simple?

Wally walks over apprehensively

What did you call me, just now?

Wally Nothing, Your Majesty. Anyhow—

Queen Never mind. Look into my eyes.

Wally What have you got for me? A surprise?

Queen *(soothingly)* Oh yes.

Wally does so and he becomes mesmerised

Repeat after me. I will do everything you say.

Wally I will do everything you say.

Queen Good, good, good. You creep.

Wally starts to crawl on the ground

What are you doing?

Wally You told me to creep.

Queen Get up. *(He does so)* Come over near me.

Now, Wimpole, can you hear me?

Wally Yes, master.

Queen You are a ballet dancer.

Wally I am a ballet dancer.

He ballet dances

Music: "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy"

Queen *(after a while)* Enough. *(He stops)* You are Michael Jackson.

Wally I am Michael Jackson.

Wally moon-dances

Music: "Thriller"

Queen *(after a while)* Enough. *(He stops)* You are Elvis Presley.

Wally I am Elvis Presley.

Wally is joined by the dancers, and sings

Song 2: "A Little Less Conversation" **(Wally)**

Queen *(after the song)* Good. Now listen very carefuller.

When you hear the words "Elvis Presley"

You will do as I command.

It's simple, do you understand? *(Wally nods)*

Have you got it off pat? (*Wally nods*)

Queen Now when I snap like that— (*snaps her finger*)

You'll forget everything I said.

Now get an axe from the shed.

She snaps her fingers and Wally returns to normal. He shakes his head and goes off R

(*Laughing*) Soon the world will understand

That I, Belladonna, am the fairest in the land!

Wally appears UR carrying the axe and some sticks, which he puts down

Wally What are you doing here, you -

Queen Elvis Presley.

Wally immediately comes over all glassy-eyed

Queen You will go and look for Snow White,

You'll find her in the garden, alright?

Then with the axe eliminate her

And return to me here later

With proof of her death—now go!

Snow White In Verse

(A mini-panto in rhyming couplets)

The plot is based on the original Brothers Grimm fairytale and borrows from the classic Disney movie of the same name. It features Snow White, the evil Queen, and the comic duo of Mavis Goodbody and Walter Wimpole (who's not a Wally!); plus a prince modelled on Lord Flashheart, and a hip Dwarf called Coolio.

Plot Summary

When Princess Snow White returns from finishing school, her stepmother, the evil Queen Belladonna, is jealous of her beauty and plots her demise. After an assassination attempt in the forest, she is rescued by seven vertically challenged persons, and further aided by the gallant Prince Charlie and outrageous dame Mavis Goodbody.

Running time: with songs, about 75 minutes.