

Spotlight Publications

Rapunzel

**A pantomime by Emma Houldershaw,
Samantha Cartwright & Louise Archer**



Rapunzel

CAST

Rapunzel, Principal Girl
King, Rapunzel's father
Queen, Rapunzel's mother
Witch, baddy
Prince Smarming
Fin Strider, Principal Boy
Princess Pickle, Rapunzel's sister
Dame Cherry Bakewell, Dame
Milly
Hide & Seek, comedy duo
Poppy
Daisy
Nettle
Wolf
Swamp Monster
Priest
Dragon
Chorus

Scene – the Palace, the village, Rapunzel's tower

Time – long ago

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act 1

Song 1 – I Would Walk 500 Miles (Proclaimers)
Song 2 – Hold On (Wilson Phillips)
Song 3 – One Jump Ahead (Aladdin)
Song 4 – I Need A Hero (Bonnie Tyler)
Song 5 – Put Your Records On (Corryne Bailey Rae)
Song 6 – Get Back Up Again (Trolls)

Act 2

Song 7 – It's A Kind Of Magic (Queen)
Song 8 – Hello, Little Girl (Into the Woods)
Song 9 – Black Magic (Little Mix)
Song 10 – Love Changes Everything (Michael Ball)
Song 11 – If I Were Not In Pantomime (Traditional)
Song 12 – See The Light (Tangled)
Song 13 – Shut Up And Dance With Me (Walk the Moon)
Song 14 – Who's Afraid Of The Big Bad Wolf
Song 15 – Can't Stop The Feeling (Trolls)

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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ACT 1**Scene 1**

Prologue, This can either be done as a pre recorded voiceover or a voiceover with pre recorded projection of the characters acting out what the voiceover is saying, white gauze, scene 2 set behind it

Voiceover Once upon a time in a land far away lived a King and Queen, they were beloved by their people and their kingdom prospered. One day the Queen fell deathly ill, no one in the land could find a cure. Legend told of a rare plant with magical properties that could cure anything. The King sent his men far and wide to find the plant if at all it existed. The plant was found within his Kingdom at the home of a Witch, but it was kept within the high walls of her secret garden, she refused to help. The King, desperate to save his wife, returned to the garden alone at night and stole the plant. He rushed home and fed it to his wife who was on her last breath. It cured her immediately. The people rejoiced at the news their Queen was well again. All but one. The Witch was furious, she went to the King and Queen and threatened to curse the Kingdom for eternity if the King and Queen did not give her their first born child. The King and Queen, who had been trying for a child for several years without success, agreed, knowing that the Witch's request would never be met, there would be no child. The Kingdom thrived and daily life continued. In the following weeks it became apparent that there would be a child.

Queen My miracle baby, We'll call her Rapunzel.

Projection freezes, spotlight on stage but missing Pickle

Pickle Rapunzel, Rapunzel, Rapunzel, it's always about Rapunzel. Er hello, I'm over here (*spotlight moves to Pickle*). I'm a princess too, I'm Rapunzel's little sister, but you won't have heard of me, cos I never feature in the story. It's never about me, it's always about her. What were Mummy and Daddy thinking? They could steal from the most powerful witch in the land and get away with it.

Back to projection, spotlight off Pickle

Voiceover The King and Queen, in their joy, forgot all about their promise to the witch. Baby Rapunzel was born and as the King and Queen tucked her into bed on that first night, little did they know, that would be the last they saw of their baby girl. The Witch broke into the palace and took what she was owed. For eighteen years the King and Queen have searched the land, sending prince after prince on a quest to find her, but no prince ever returns.

Projection ends abruptly, spot on Pickle

Pickle Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah and they all lived happily ever after. Except they didn't. They had another daughter, me and they were still miserable. I'm not good enough, never have been good enough and never will be. Rapunzel is perfect in everyone's eyes, not that they know her, none of us do. Rapunzel. What kind of name is that anyway? Who names their child after something they ate when they were pregnant? Oh that's right, my mother. My name's Pickle. Rapunzel's younger, insignificant sister. No one ever notices me, watch this.

Scene 2

The Palace, internal palace back cloth, two thrones upstage centre. The King and Queen are on their thrones, villagers and princes. All looking busy, villagers waving off the princes

Curtains open and Pickle walks into the scene

Pickle Hi, everyone, (*she waves and gestures wildly, no one looks up*). See, I may as well not even be here (*she walks amongst the cast doing silly movements and saying hello, no one responds*). (To audience) I don't have any friends (*audience ahh*) you can do better than that, c'mon this is the first conversation I've had all week (*audience ahh*). You're my friends now, you'll help people notice me won't you? (*Audience yes*) If anyone doesn't notice me, will you shout out my name, will you shout out Pickle? (*Audience yes*) Let's have a little practice (*goes to Chorus 1*) Lovely weather for this time of year isn't it?

Chorus 1 (*looking confused, speaks to audience*) Who said that?

Audience Pickle.

Chorus 1 Oh hello, Pickle, didn't see you there.

Pickle Thanks everyone, that was fun, let's try one more time, (*goes to Chorus 2*) Do you have the time, please?

Chorus 2 Who said that?

Audience Pickle

Chorus 2 Pickle, where did you come from?

Group of Princes enter

Pickle Here's the next batch of heroes hoping to find Rapunzel. When will they just give up and accept, she's not coming home.

Song 1

The King and Queen are talking to the princes and sending them on their quest. Pickle approaches them

Pickle Mother, Father, why don't we go and watch the jousting tonight, just the three of us as a family?

King (*speaking to a prince, Pickle thinks he's talking to her*) Do you think you're ready?

Pickle Ready? Of course I'm ready, I've been waiting for a family night for years (*the prince is replying silently*).

Queen It'll be a long a perilous journey (*talking to the Prince*).

Pickle (*thinking they are talking to her*) What? To the town square, I don't think so.

King (*to the prince*) you should leave right away.

Pickle (*thinking he's talking to her*) Leave? You want me to go?

Queen The sooner you leave the better, maybe we'll get our Rapunzel back (*talking to the Prince*).

Pickle (*thinking they're talking to her*) Fine, I'll go, it's clear you don't want me here.

King Pack a bag and make sure you have enough supplies (*to the Prince*).

Pickle Don't worry, I already have a bag packed (*she picks up a bag from the wings*).

Queen Farewell and good luck.

Pickle Fine, I'm gone.

Pickle marches off into the audience, the Prince exits Left at the same time

King I think that went quite well, don't you?

Queen Wonderfully. We may have that wedding sooner than we thought. (*Shouts off*) Send for Mrs Bakewell, the cake maker.

Dame Bakewell enters Right carrying a tray of cakes

Bakewell You called?

King We need a wedding cake immediately.

Bakewell Ooh, have you found Princess Rapunzel?

King Not yet, but we've just sent out another band of princes and this time we're certain they'll find her.

Bakewell (*rolling her eyes*) So, what type of cake would you like? Victoria Sponge again?

Queen No, I think we'll go for fourteen tiers, four of classic fruit cake, four chocolate, three vanilla sponge,

three lemon, covered in ganache, a thousand hand-sculpted sugar flowers and topped with gold leaf.

Bakewell Okay, I'll get started and get it to you as soon as I can.

Queen Tomorrow morning is fine.

King and Queen exit Right

Bakewell Looks like I'm going to be working round the clock if I'm to get that cake ready by tomorrow, who does she think I am? Mary Berry? A good baker will rise to the occasion, it's the yeast I can do. Oh hello, where did you lot come from? I hope you're not here to order cakes. I'm up to my eyeballs with the King and Queen's order as it is. This is the fifth cake I've made this month, and every time they go to waste, my waist to be precise, I end up eating most of it myself, do you know, technically if you don't cut a cake and just eat the whole thing with a fork, you still only had one piece. The more you weigh the harder you are to kidnap, stay safe and eat cake, that's my motto. I'm Dame Bakewell. I live here in the village with my son Fin Strider, he calls himself that but I call him Norman Cornelius Bakewell. I don't understand why he feels the need to change it, apparently it's not "cool". The worst thing about naming a baby is realising how many people you hate. Anyway, better get back to the bakery, I've left Milly in charge. She's my assistant, a few pecans short of a fruitcake, she tries, bless her, but let's just say she's not a natural baker like me. Better get started on this cake, see you later.

She exits

Scene 3

Rapunzel's tower, with a woods back clot. The tower is downstage right, and remains in place throughout show. It has a large window, big enough to see Rapunzel sitting in the tower through it and to climb through. There is a rope ladder fixed top and bottom and disguised with plants and flower; the rope is decorated with flowers so it looks like hair from the window to the floor

Rapunzel is sitting in her tower, looking out of the window. Three flowers, Poppy, Daisy and Nettle are at the bottom of the tower

Song 2

Rapunzel Oh Poppy, will I ever leave this tower?

Poppy Of course you will, there's a great big world out there waiting for you.

Nettle Waiting for you? You're never getting out of here.

Daisy I think you should stay right where you are, where it's safe.

Rapunzel I know, Daisy, you're probably right, but I'd so love to feel the grass beneath my feet.

Nettle I can feel it, it's damp, cold and full of worms, you're better off up there, at least it's dry.

Poppy Don't listen to Nettle, she's just bitter, 'cos she's a weed, not a flower.

Nettle A weed that can sting. The world is a dangerous place, Rapunzel.

Daisy You know what your mother told you would happen if your feet touched the grass?

Rapunzel I know, grass burns through human skin, but it looks so appealing and smells so fresh.

Daisy But it's misleading, just like that mist your mother talks about, Rapunzel.

Rapunzel Enchanted mist. Lures you closer then sends you to sleep, I'd still rather brave the mist and experience all the good things I read about, the sea, dancing, mountains, the sun setting on the horizon, a big red balloon, people, cake, I've never even tasted cake, and falling in love, imagine what that might be like (*she goes all dreamy and sighs*).

Poppy/Daisy (*sigh*)

Nettle It's overrated. I fell in love once with a thistle, didn't last, he was all over me, kept trying to take over, then a man pulled him out of the ground and I never saw him again.

Rapunzel Oh Nettle, you're always so full of joy, aren't you? But a girl can dream.

Lights fade on tower and spot goes onto witch who enters Left

Witch (*to audience angrily*) How did you find us? Why are you here? You better not be filling Rapunzel's head with thoughts of the outside world. She is never leaving me, I need her, or I need her hair. Her hair holds magical powers that keep me young and beautiful. I am young and beautiful, aren't I? (*Audience – oh no you're not etc.*) Oh shut up, what would you lot know about true beauty, you're all old and ugly (*audience boo*). As long as I can keep her here in this tower, I'll be able to use her magic. And the wretched girl actually thinks I'm her mother (*repulsed shiver*). (*She goes to the tower and switches to sickly sweet*) Rapunzel! Mother's home. Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair.

Rapunzel's hair drops down, Witch climbs up into the tower using the hidden rope ladder

Witch My darling Rapunzel, what have you been up to?

Rapunzel Oh Mother, I just read the most wonderful book, about a prince and a ...

Witch (*interrupting*) Sit down, give me your hair.

Rapunzel sits on the floor, talking, but very quietly, sound effect of magic, then when sound effect ends she carries on her story

Rapunzel ... and they fell in love and lived happily ever after.

Witch Love only exists in fairytales.

Rapunzel But what if it does exist? Wouldn't it be wonderful?

Witch I've told you, darling, the outside world is a cruel, nasty place.

Rapunzel But if I could just go outside, even for one day.

Witch No, we've been through this before.

Rapunzel I promise, I wouldn't be gone long.

Witch I said no.

Rapunzel Please, Mother, just once?

Witch NO! you are never to leave this tower. EVER.

Blackout

Scene 4

The village A bakery shop front upstage left, with working door, table and two chairs outside with a menu on table and a wanted poster of Fin Strider stage Right. Palace gates upstage right

Bakewell enters behind the bakery wheeling on a cart with cake ingredients. Milly enters carrying a burnt cake

Bakewell How long did you leave it in the oven?

Milly I did exactly what you told me to do.

Bakewell Two hundred degrees for twenty minutes?

Milly I thought you said twenty degrees for two hundred minutes.

Bakewell This is Milly.

Milly Hi, I'm Milly, most people think it's short for Camilla but it's really short for Millicent. But I don't even know how to spell Millicent, so I never call myself Millicent, I'm just Milly.

Bakewell *(to audience)* Like I told you, few pecans short of a fruitcake.

Fin enters Right

Song 3

Fin, Milly, Bakewell and the Chorus as villagers. A flower seller, apple seller, colourful windmills on sticks seller during the song. He is stealing, giving what he's stolen to pretty girls, being a general rogue

Bakewell *(to the audience)* This is my son Norman, sorry, sorry, I mean Fin. Always in trouble, that boy, he'll be the death of me. *(Grabbing Fin by the ear)* What have you been up to now?

Fin Nothing, Mum, honest

Bakewell *(leading him to a wanted poster of him)* What's this

then?

Fin *(looking at the picture, that has a lipstick mark on it)* They got my good side.

He stands next to the picture and poses in the same way

Milly *(clearly embarrassed and covering that it was her kissing the poster, points to the lipstick mark)* I don't know where that came from. I mean it was there when I got here, don't know who's been kissing the picture of you, but it wasn't me.

Fin *(grabbing her like a brother would and rubbing his fist on her head)* Alright, Mils?

Milly *(pulling away from him laughing and with her hair very messy)* You're so funny, Fin.

He walks away from her, but she carries on acting silly about him

Fin *(to Bakewell)* Mum, I'm so hungry, you got any of my favourite cakes?

Bakewell I'm not sure if you deserve it.

Fin Not for your favourite son?

Bakewell You're my only son.

Fin You not even got any pie? You know what the best thing to put in a pie is?

Bakewell No, what's the best thing to put in a pie?

Fin My teeth.

Bakewell *(gently slapping him on the head)* I might have one.

Milly goes to get the pie

Milly Here it is, Fin, just for you.

He sits down, with his legs up on the table. She sits opposite and gazes at him, while he eats the pie and gets it all round his mouth

Er, you've got a little something on your face.

Fin *(using one finger, wipes a tiny bit off but leaves most of it)* Did I get it?

Milly *(too embarrassed to say he didn't)* Um, yeah.

Fin What would I do without you?

He kisses her cheek and she gets pie on her face too

Bakewell (*seeing their faces*) Look at the pair of you, what have you been doing?

She fake spits into a hankie and wipes their faces

Prince Smarming enters downstage Left

Prince I've tied my noble steed to the gate. You, girl (*points to Milly*) fetch him some water. I've travelled from afar, I require some refreshments.

Silence

Fin (*cough*) Loser (*coughs*).

Bakewell (*slaps Fin's head*) (*to audience*) Another prince. (*To Prince*) Your Highness, on your way to the Palace, I presume?

Prince Indeed, I am marrying the Princess.

Bakewell You've rescued her?

Prince Not yet, but I will.

They all roll their eyes, Pickle enters Right and notices the Prince

Pickle Another prince, fancy your chances, do you?

Prince (*looks about*) (*to audience*) Who said that?

Audience Pickle.

Prince Who?

Audience Pickle.

Prince Who's Pickle?

Pickle Me!

Prince What kind of idiots would name their child Pickle? Out of my way, peasant. You should be bowing to me, I'm royalty.

He shoves her aside, she is outraged

(To Bakewell) A dozen of your finest gooseberry tarts for the Queen.

Fanfare and the King and Queen enter through Palace gates

Queen Should my ears be burning?

All curtsy/bow. The Prince rushes forwards and bows low

Prince Your Majesties.

King You must be Prince Smarming of Smugsville? We heard you were coming.

Pickle Prince Smarming of Smugsville, how appropriate.

Prince I do apologise for this insolent behaviour. Bow to your King and Queen, peasant.

Pickle I'm their daughter, I'm a princess, you should bow to me.

Prince (*bows and talks to the King and Queen*) I'm terribly sorry, Your Majesties.

King Oh don't worry about that.

He waves Pickle away, who looks sad as she goes to Milly

Queen You're here to rescue our Rapunzel. As you know if you're successful, you'll win her hand, plus all the riches of our land.

Prince It's not an if, it's a when.

Queen I like your confidence. (*To Bakewell*) Looks like we'll need that cake sooner than we thought. (*To the Prince*) We wish you the best of luck.

King See you at the wedding, son.

He puts his hand on the Prince's shoulder

The King and Queen exit through Palace gates

Rapunzel

This latest offering by the team who brought you *The Wizard of Oz Pantomime* is a lively and fun-filled script.

Plot Summary

The familiar plot centres on a beautiful princess called Rapunzel with the longest hair you can ever imagine, trapped in a tower by an evil witch. Join Fin Strider and Prince Smarming as they set off to rescue her, but will they succeed and who will win her hand? Full of great characters including a dim-witted comedy duo, Hide and Seek, Dame Cherry Bakewell, a very dangerous wolf and a dragon.

Running time: about two hours.