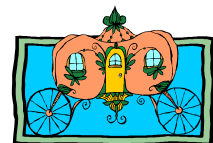


Spotlight Publications

Four Mini-Pantos

By Peter Bond

Cinderella



Dick Whittington



Rumpelstiltskin



Sleeping Beauty



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FOUR MINI-PANTOS

Cinderella

Adapted from the story by Charles Perrault

CAST

Cinderella

Buttons

Hilda

Matilda

Baron

Fairy Godmother

Prince Charming

Dandini

Courtiers

Time: mythical

Playing time: about 20 minutes (depending on music and dance)

Scene 1

Baron Hardup's house. The kitchen. Table and two chairs. There is a door to the cellar L, used in Scene 3

Enter Hilda and Matilda L

Matilda Good evening, all! I'm called Matilda!

Hilda And good evening from me. I'm called Hilda!

Audience response

Matilda Here is a tale past comprehending.

Hilda But don't worry. It has a happy ending.

Matilda How Cinderella met the man of her dreams.

Hilda But not everything is as it seems.

Matilda We two are known as the Ugly Sisters.

Hilda Everyone knows us. You can't have missed us.

Matilda I maintain we're not so ugly.

Hilda No. I'm just cuddly and snuggly.

Matilda I'm attractive in a certain light.

Hilda Preferably very faint moonlight.

Matilda So, though you might not look at us twice -

Hilda You have to admit, we're rather nice!

Optional Song

See Producer's Notes for song suggestions

Hilda and Matilda go out L, giggling together

Enter Buttons R

Buttons Hello, I'm Buttons! Hello, girls and boys!

Audience response

Buttons Hello there! Can you make a bit more noise?

Hello, girls and boys!

Audience response

This is Baron Hardup's house.
 He's as poor as a harvest mouse
 Because his daughters love to splash
 Out on new clothes and spend his cash.
 Have you met the Ugly Sisters?

Audience response

Not quite Hollywood A-Listers.
 They have a half-sister Cinderella.
 I love her. But I don't dare tell 'er.
 Do you think I should?

Audience response

No, I wouldn't dare.
 But look, that's her, over there!

Enter Cinderella R

Cinderella Hello, Buttons! Who were you talking about?
Buttons Oh, just someone.
Cinderella Well, I have no doubt,
 If *you* should find a fiancée,
 She'd be just perfect in every way.

Exit Cinderella L

Buttons (*to audience*) With that analysis I must concur.
 The person that I love is her.

Enter Baron L

Baron Buttons! Why do I have to wait?
 I asked for breakfast at half past eight.
 The table's bare. Nothing's laid,
 No porridge, toast or marmalade,
 And, if I am not mistaken,
 You haven't started the eggs and bacon.
Buttons Ah, but what you've overlooked -
 Everything will be freshly cooked.

Exit Buttons R

Baron Life in this house, there's no denial,
 Is a torment and a trial.
 I become quite overwrought as
 I cope with three demanding daughters.
 All I want is to be alone,
 Free from their chatting on the 'phone.
 In retirement, I need a new direction,
 Sorting out my stamp collection,
 Going out to evening class,
 Learning how to make stained glass,
 And I'd like to have a go at
 Conversational Serbo-Croat.

Re-enter Buttons R. He has a tray with a plate of toast and four envelopes. He puts the tray down and holds out

the four envelopes

Buttons Sir, your marmalade and toast.
And – just delivered – here's the post.

Re-enter Hilda, Matilda and Cinderella L. They crowd round Buttons who hands out the envelopes

Hilda Let me see, let me see, let me see.
Matilda Is there one for me? Is there one for me?
Buttons Four letters, every one the same.
One for each of you - check the name.

Hilda and Matilda are excitedly opening their envelopes

Hilda Look at the heading! The royal seal!
Matilda From HRH! It can't be real!
Hilda It's unbearably exciting.
Matilda Would you believe it, he's inviting -
Hilda Us to a celebration Ball!
Matilda At the Palace, in the Great Hall!
Hilda When is it happening? What does it say?
Matilda It's – good gracious! - it's today!
Hilda Arrive for tea or cafe crème -
Matilda With wine and nibbles at 7 pm.
Cinderella But my clothes are such a mess.
Could either of you lend me a dress?
Hilda Lend you a dress? Don't think of it!
You're much too fat. You wouldn't fit.
Matilda Cinderella, this is just our treat.
You cannot mingle with the elite.
Hilda A ball is what you can't enjoy
When you're one of the hoi polloi.
Matilda You can't associate with debs
If you're one of the common plebs!
Baron Come on, girls. We must away!
The journey to the Palace takes all day.
Hilda Cinders, while we're out clubbing -
Matilda You must set about some scrubbing.
Hilda Sweep the patio and hard standing.
Matilda Hoover the hall, the stairs and landing.
Hilda Launder all my skirts and frocks.
Matilda And put out the recycling box.
Hilda & Matilda Bye!

Hilda, Matilda and Baron go out R. Cinderella sinks sadly onto a chair

Cinderella I wanted to go to the Ball.
I never have any fun at all.
Buttons The way they treat you is simply rotten.
They're off to the Ball and you're forgotten.
If you need some food, the table's laid.
There's loads of toast and marmalade.

Exit Buttons R. Cinderella starts to cry. Enter Fairy Godmother UR

Fairy Cinderella, my dear, dry your eyes.
You must prepare for a little surprise!
Cinderella (*standing up, taken aback*) Who are you? How did you get here?
Fairy I'm your Fairy Godmother. Never fear.
I'm always ready when I hear the call.

Cinderella, you *shall* go to the Ball!

Cinderella But -

Fairy It's quite straightforward. Lose that frown.

What you need is an evening gown.

A-line, organza, off-the-shoulder,

With a fur stole, so you don't get colder,

Set off with diamonds and pearls.

You'll be the envy of all the girls.

Cinderella Where is this dress?

Fairy It's a simple tale.

I bought it today in Debenham's (*or other store*) sale.

So stand right there. You'll be the belle

Of the ball as soon as I cast my spell.

She stands dramatically, wand up and outstretched

Fairy (*to Cinderella*) Concentrate your mind. Just focus.

(*Facing the audience*) Abracadabra! Hocus-pocus!

Sprickety-sprockety-sprackety-sprawl!

Make Cinderella a dress for the Ball!

Blackout. Magic flashes. Blackout again

Bring up lights again to reveal Cinderella now dressed in hiking kit, i.e. long shorts etc, with extendable stick, rucksack, OS map in plastic holder, torch, whistle etc. Cinderella looks at her outfit, perplexed

Cinderella This is not an evening dress.

Fairy Let's just say, limited success.

Cinderella I can't go to the Ball like this.

Fairy It's a *metamorphosis*!

I have managed to equip

You for an all-day walking trip.

The Palace lies at quite a distance.

You can get there with assistance.

Cinderella I haven't walked that far since Year Eleven.

Geography Field Trip, somewhere in Devon.

Fairy Don't be sulky. Don't get miffed.

We might be able to thumb a lift.

Don't argue, Cinders! Don't say no.

Take the invite! Off we go!

Fairy Godmother picks up Cinderella's invitation. Cinderella looks confused and uncertain. Fairy Godmother takes her arm and leads her out R

Scene 2

The Palace ballroom. Quiet dance music. Prince, Dandini, and Courtiers stand around, making polite conversation. Chamberlain stands at the side R, ready to announce arrivals

Chamberlain (*loudly*) The Right Honourable The Baron Hardup. The Honourable Miss Hilda Hardup, The Honourable Miss Matilda Hardup.

Baron, Hilda and Matilda enter as announced. They join the crowd, Hilda and Matilda flirting with anyone possible. Hilda attracts the notice of Dandini

Waltz music. Courtiers start dancing. Prince and Dandini stand talking and watching, but do not dance. Hilda and Matilda join in the dance enthusiastically, the Baron joins in reluctantly

The dance can be played straight, with attractive choreography, or it can be played for laughs, with Hilda and Matilda bumping into people

The dance ends. Everyone withdraws to the sides, except for Prince and Dandini who move forward and talk

Prince This is such a waste of time.

Dancing should be made a crime.

There's a hundred girls I've met

Who can do a pirouette

Promenade or dos-a-dos,

A professional dancing show,

But the kind of girl I like

Is the girl who wants to go on a hike.

Dandini You believe rambling prowess

Is what makes a true Princess?

Prince My girl won't stroll around the Park.

She'll climb Ben Nevis after dark,

And show her skills and fine physique

By pitching tent upon the peak.

Dandini You might not find, I rather fear,

Too many girls like that round here.

Enter Cinderella R, in her hiking gear. Everyone looks at her in surprise, wondering who she is. Chamberlain approaches her to ask her name. Cinderella whispers a reply

Chamberlain This lady asks, and I can't veto,

That she may join us incognito.

Cinderella walks on and joins the guests. The Prince gapes at her, instantly fascinated. Cinderella is clearly not so interested in the Prince

Prince (*to Dandini*) Do not dismiss my chance so fast.

Here's a hiking enthusiast.

(*To Cinderella*) Please talk with me. I have no doubt

You are the girl I dream about.

Cinderella Dream about me if you like.

Prince You obviously enjoy a hike.

Tell me. Do you ever ski?

Cinderella Only if I use my Wii.

Prince (*puzzled*) Oh. What is your lifelong ambition?

Cinderella Twelve hours a day of television.

Prince Isn't walking your special treat?

Cinderella Only down *Coronation Street*.

Prince Surely you're a mountaineer?

You've got all the hiking gear.

(*Kneeling*) For me the perfect holiday

Is a walk along the Pennine Way.
Then, with no delay at all,
From end to end of Hadrian's Wall.

Cinderella (*alarmed*) Are you some sort of lunatic?
I'm getting out, extremely quick!

Cinderella runs out R, losing one walking-boot as she goes. The Prince gazes after her in admiration. Then he picks up the boot and cradles it lovingly

Prince Cinderella, you may go
But I shall seek you high and low.
You shall not evade pursuit
For I have your walking-boot.

He sets off purposefully R as if to pursue her immediately. Dandini follows

Four Mini-Pantos **By Peter Bond**

Four short pantomimes with a total running time of just over an hour, and written in rhyming couplets. Both tales are told in a witty and very funny way which will delight all readers. Could be performed individually, in pairs, or all together as an evening's entertainment.

Cinderella starts off in the traditional way—Cinders, in rags, pal Buttons, Fairy Godmother, maltreated by Ugly Sisters, etc. At the Ball things take a different turn when the Prince takes a shine to our heroine, but for the wrong reasons. And the ending—let's say it all works out well for Buttons at least.

Dick Whittington & His Rabbit—well, the title tells it all. The start is traditional, however when the Rats see Oscar the rabbit, they collapse in laughter. But Oscar is no ordinary rabbit and has a trick or two up his sleeve...

Rumpelstiltskin tells the story of the miller who boasts that his daughter could make gold out of flax and is overheard by the King. She is then locked up, and the King offers her marriage in return for her gift. In her cell she is visited by a gnome who makes her boast come true, but at a price. As always, there is a sting in the tail.

The plot of *Sleeping Beauty* is familiar. A princess is cursed by a witch and pricks her finger on a spinning wheel. She and her family are condemned to sleep for a hundred years until kissed by a handsome Prince. In this version the Prince duly kisses the Princess, but she is less than impressed with him when she wakes up ...

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