

Beauty & The Beast

A pantomime written by

Ron Nicol

Spotlight Publications

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Beauty & The Beast

CAST (in order of appearance)

Rosella, a good fairy

Clementina

Nectarina, her sister

Gabrielle, their maid

Belle, known as Beauty

Maleva, an enchantress

Monsieur Villeneuve, a rich merchant

Claude, Villeneuve's servant

Hermione, Beast's housekeeper

Hortense, Beast's cook

Beast

Three **sons, servants, faceless watchers** (optional)

Place - Villeneuve's house, the farmhouse, a forest, Beast's palace

Time - 18th Century France

AUTHOR'S NOTE

In the original production of 'Beauty and the Beast', Rosella, Villeneuve, Clementina and Nectarina spoke with a mild French accent à la the TV programme 'Allo Allo'. This might work for you.

Settings may be as simple or as elaborate as desired. If you have few resources, it's possible to play 'Beauty and the Beast' without complex scene changes and with just a table DR and bench DL.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Spots for inserting musical numbers have been indicated and suggestions for songs follow, although other music might be preferred and additional songs may be inserted at appropriate times.

Song 1 - Belle solo '*Somewhere Out There*' - Horner, Mann & Weil

Song 2 - Clementina & Nectarina '*Lovely*' - Stephen Sondheim

Song 3 - Hermione & Hortense '*Anything You Can Do*' - Irving Berlin

Song 4 - Gabrielle '*Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!*' - Anderson & Ulveus

Song 5 - Belle & Beast '*Somewhere Out There*' - Horner, Mann & Weil

For permission to perform these or any other songs, application should be made to

The Performing Rights Society

29-33 Berners Street

London W1P 4AA.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT 1

Prologue

Scene 1 - Villeneuve's house

Scene 2 - Villeneuve's house

Scene 3 - Villeneuve's farmhouse in the country

Scene 4 - A forest at night

Scene 5 - Beast's palace

Scene 6 - Beast's palace

Scene 7 - Beast's palace

ACT 2

Scene 1 - Villeneuve's house

Scene 2 - Beast's palace

Scene 3 - Belle's room in Beast's palace

Scene 4 - Villeneuve's house

Scene 5 - Belle's bedroom in Villeneuve's house

Scene 6 - Belle's bedroom & Beast's garden

Scene 7 - Beast's palace

'Beauty and the Beast' was first produced by Glenrothes Theatre Company in January 2007 with the following cast:

Rosella	Nikki Conn
Maleva	Norma Nicol
Villeneuve	Andrew Miller
Belle	Sarah Louise Poole
Clementina	Audrey Stevenson
Nectarina	Aileen Henderson
Gabrielle	Lee Mitchell
Claude	Billy Hardy
Hermione	Stephanie Childs
Hortense	Louise Morrison
Beast	Craig Spence

Directed by Ron Nicol

ACT 1

Prologue

An empty stage, except for a small table extreme DR and a bench extreme DL. A pink spot comes up DR. Fairy Rosella enters, carrying a huge book with “La Belle et La Bête” on the cover in large letters

Rosella Ah, mes enfants, bonjour! Bonjour, Mesdames et Messieurs. Nous allons écouter “La Belle et la Bête” ce soir... Qu’est-ce que c’est? What’s wrong? It is perhaps you cannot understand me, no? But this story it is written in French, n’est ce pas? You speak French, of course. No? What can we do about that?

She has an agitated whispered conversation with somebody in the wings - in French, of course, or make it up!

Eh bien. All right, we play it in the English. *(She tosses the book into the wings and assumes an over-the-top upper-class English accent)* Let us begin. Good evening, my lords, ladies and gentlemen. Good evening, boys and girls. Welcome. No, I can’t be bothered with that. *(Assumes a very broad rural accent)* There was once a very rich merchant... No, that won’t do either. *(She continues with a slight French accent)* There was once a very rich merchant who had six children, three sons ...

Three young men enter uncertainly. Hissing from the wings and another frantic French conversation

Eh bien! I’m afraid we must withhold the services of some of the cast. Yes, the rich merchant had six children, but we’re going to dispense with the three sons, because their English is atrocious. Do not distress yourselves, because they’re not important and play very little part in the story.

The figures react suitably, and slink off dispiritedly.

The merchant also had three daughters who were very beautiful, but ... Wait, you shall see ...

Rosella exits and her spot fades out

Scene 1

Villeneuve’s house

Lighting is restored as Clementina and Nectarina enter, followed by their maid Gabrielle, who is trying to brush Clementina’s hair. There could be additional servants carrying clothes and accessories

Clementina Don’t tug, Gabrielle!

Gabrielle Sorry, Miss, but your hair’s been dragged through a hedge.

Clementina What was that?

Gabrielle I said this style should give you an edge.

Clementina Thank you, Gabrielle. Where is everybody, Nectarina?

Nectarina I’ve no idea. I’m bored. Shall we visit Gardenia?

Clementina She’s a shopkeeper’s daughter, Nectarina. Not nearly grand enough for the likes of such as what we are. That’s enough, Gabbi. Do Nectarina’s hair now.

Gabrielle Yes, Miss. Right, Miss. Wow! Her hair’s like a haystack.

Clementina What was that?

Gabrielle I said I'll start with the back, Miss.

Nectarina What about Ambrosia?

Clementina Her father's a butcher, Nectarina. He makes sausages!

Nectarina Sausages! Yuck! Stop tugging, Gabrielle!

Gabrielle Sorry, Miss Nectarina.

Clementina Ambrosia's not in our class at all.

Nectarina Are you sure? I remember her at school. She had pigtails...

Clementina Pigtails! What else could one expect from a butcher's daughter. And by class I mean social status, Nectarina. I mean she isn't as superior such as like what we is.

Nectarina Stop tugging, Gabrielle!

Gabrielle has stopped brushing Nectarina's hair, and looks at her hairbrush in bewilderment

Gabrielle Sorry, Miss Nectarina. Oh, there's Miss Valeria.

Clementina Where? I can't see her. Are you trying to annoy me, Gabbi?

Gabrielle I meant, there's Miss Valeria you could visit.

Clementina She's a fishmonger's daughter! She smells of fish!

Nectarina Fish! Yuck!

Clementina Anyway, who asked you? Be silent!

Gabrielle Yes, Miss. Sorry, Miss. (*Quietly as she moves away*) You've a face like a cow, Miss.

Clementina What did you say?

Gabrielle I said I'll be quiet now, Miss.

Clementina Good. There's nobody suitable for us to visit, Nectarina. Everyone we know is pure dead common. And when one's papa is a rich merchant who trades all over the world, like what ours does, one cannot possibly associate with commoners!

Nectarina Of course not!

Clementina And their houses are full of dogs. I wouldn't have a dog in the house. Horses now, they are different. They can come in any time. Talking of horses, what are you doing, Gabbi?

Gabrielle Nothing, Miss.

Clementina Then go and complete your tasks.

Gabrielle I don't have any, Miss. I've finished.

Clementina Then hold your tongue, or you'll definitely be finished.

Gabrielle holds her tongue

Clementina No, no! What are you doing?

Gabrielle You said hold my tongue -

Clementina Don't try to be clever, Gabbi, and don't answer back. In other words, don't be gabby, Gabbi.

The sisters snigger at such incredible wit

Gabrielle Yes, Miss. Thank you, Miss. (*Quietly*) You old bat.

Clementina What did you say?

Gabrielle I said I'll do that.

Belle enters, reading

Clementina Ah, Belle! There you are! What are you doing?

Belle Reading.

Nectarina I wish I could read ...

Clementina No you don't. You're a lady of leisure. Reading serves no useful purpose whatsoever.

Belle I want to improve myself.

Nectarina That's a good idea ...

Clementina No it isn't, Nectarina. Rich and very beautiful women such as we are don't need to read. We don't need any improvement. We're perfect. Absolutely perfect.

Nectarina Are we?

Clementina Of course.

Gabrielle You could've fooled me.

Clementina What was that?

Gabrielle I said, absolutely.

Nectarina I'm glad I'm perfect. I'm delighted I'm beautiful. And I'm so relieved I don't have to read. Reading's stupid. A waste of time.

Clementina What's the point of reading when all you need is a man?

Nectarina A man! Ooh! The very word sends shivers down my spine.

Clementina You won't get a man by reading. You have to go to parties, balls, plays, concerts, and so forth. Like what we does. I've never read a book in my life, and do you know, Monsieur Léotard proposed to me yesterday.

Nectarina Well, Aubergine proposed to moi.

Clementina I turned him down, of course.

Nectarina So did I.

Clementina/Nectarina So common!

Clementina Such a pity you don't get proposals, Belle.

Belle Oh, but I do. I'm afraid I've had to refuse them all.

Clementina/Nectarina All?

Clementina How many?

Belle Oh, half-a-dozen at least.

Nectarina Half-a-dozen! How many's half-a-dozen?

Clementina Too many!

Belle I told them, very civilly of course, that I'm too young to marry and I want to stay with my Papa a few years longer. They quite understood. They're such fine young men.

Clementina But they're shop keepers' sons! Pure dead common!

Belle They sell the goods our father trades in. We couldn't survive without them.

Clementina I couldn't marry somebody like that. The man I marry will have to be a duke.

Nectarina An eel at least.

Clementina Earl, Nectarina, earl.

Nectarina Sorry.

Belle What do you think, Gabbi? Have you had any proposals?

Gabrielle No Miss.

Clementina One day your prince will come. Perhaps ...

Nectarina Not!

Gabrielle It's all very well to say your prince will come, but if he's been and come and gone and you've missed him, you've had it.

Clementina Yes, I should think you've definitely had it, Gabbi.

Clementina and Nectarina snigger

Gabrielle Maybe I've had it - but am I bothered, Miss? Am I? Am I bothered? Look at my face, Miss. I'm not bothered.

Clementina Do stop that, Gabrielle.

Gabrielle Am I bothered, though? Look at me. Am I bothered?

Clementina Gabrielle! Be silent! Come, Nectarina.

Gabrielle I'm not bothered, though.

Clementina and Nectarina exit with their servants

Belle Oh Gabbi, why do my sisters dislike me so much?

Gabrielle They're just jealous, Miss Belle. Everybody admires you, and it makes your sisters very envious. Don't be bothered, Miss. It's not worth it.

Gabrielle exits

Belle I know their jealousy shouldn't upset me, but it does. I do wish I had someone to love me. Even though I've had so many proposals, I haven't found the right man ...

Song 1

The lighting fades as Belle exits. There's a roll of thunder and a green spot comes up DL as Maleva enters

Maleva Surprise, surprise! Allow me to introduce myself. I'm Maleva the enchantress. The very embodiment of evil is here amongst you! You didn't expect me, did you? Well, perhaps if you looked in the programme you might've done, but now I'm here I'm going to take a hand in the story. You'll find out why - eventually. Belle is so beautiful it makes me sick! I'll spoil things for her, though. The right man indeed. I'll make sure she finds somebody - somebody of *my* choosing. But first I'll spoil her perfect home. Some bad news for her father, perhaps. Just you watch! Heh, heh, heh!

She exits DL cackling hideously as thunder rolls and her spot fades

Scene 2

Villeneuve's house

Lighting is restored as Villeneuve enters carrying an official-looking letter, followed by Claude, who stands silently in the background. Clementina, Nectarina, Belle and Gabrielle also enter. There could be additional servants in attendance

Belle You sent for us, Papa?

Villeneuve Yes, my daughters, I've something very sad to tell you.

Clementina I can't possibly listen to anything sad or bad. I'm not in the mood.

Nectarina Neither am I. I'm never in the mood to hear anything sad or bad.

Belle What is it, Papa? What's wrong? Are you ill?

Villeneuve No, my dear Beauty, I'm not ill, but I might as well be. Some of my ships have been wrecked in a storm, while others have been attacked by pirates and my goods stolen. Two have been lost altogether. It's a disaster. I've lost my entire fortune. We can't afford to live in luxury any longer.

Clementina No luxury.

Nectarina No longer.

Clementina Any longer, Nectarina. No luxury *any* longer.

Nectarina Sorry.

Clementina What about our social life? We're greatly in demand, you know. We go to all the parties. All the dances ...

Villeneuve I'm afraid there won't be any more parties or dances because we'll have to sell this house and move to the country.

Clementina The country! Consort with peasants! How unpleasant.

Nectarina They might be quite pleasant peasants.

Clementina No peasant could ever be pleasant. Take my word for it.

Nectarina I suppose you're right - all those feathers!

Belle Feathers? How many peasants have you met, Nectarina?

Nectarina None! The thought of meeting peasants is most unpleasant.

Belle So how do you know every peasant's unpleasant?

Clementina It's obvious. They're just like servants. Look at ours. Gabrielle's an absolute disgrace. I don't know how I put up with her.

Gabrielle With great difficulty I'm sure, Miss. But I'm not bothered.

Villeneuve There's another thing, children. You'll all have to work for your living.

Clementina Work, Papa! Did you say - work! That sounds even more unpleasant than consorting with peasants. What'll we do?

Villeneuve I still have my farm in the country. You could perhaps look after the dairy -

Nectarina You mean - write things down! Every day?

Clementina Dairy, Nectarina, not diary.

Nectarina Oh. That's good. I can't write.

Villeneuve So you'll have to milk the cows -

Nectarina Cows! (*Quietly*) What are cows?

Clementina Creatures that smell absolutely horrid. When you squeeze them they produce milk.

Nectarina Milk?

Clementina The white stuff you put on your cornflakes, Nectarina.

Gabrielle I'll milk the cows.

Clementina/Nectarina Milk the cows! Yuck!

Belle We'll use the milk to make butter and cheese.

Clementina Milk cows! Make butter and cheese! What else is there?

Villeneuve (*rural accent*) You'll have to muck out t' cowshed.

Everybody (*rural accent*) Muck out t' cowshed!

Nectarina (*rural accent*) Muck out t' cowshed?

Clementina Clean, Nectarina, clean. We don't use such awful words as - muck.

Nectarina I'm sorry. *Clean* the cowshed! Yuck!

Villeneuve And we could keep chickens. Sell the eggs ...

Nectarina Chickens?

Clementina They're like pheasants, Nectarina.

Nectarina Oh. More feathers!

Belle And we could have pigs ...

Clementina That's enough, Belle! Peasants are unpleasant, work makes me wince, but nothing will make me pass the time with pigs!

Nectarina Pigs! Yuck!

Villeneuve Nonsense. You'll soon get used to it.

Clementina But we can't soil our hands with work. We want to get married.

Nectarina Who'd marry us if we have to work?

Clementina They wouldn't even want to marry Belle.

Claude I'd marry her if she'd have me.

Nectarina Claude! Who'd marry you?

Claude I'd marry anybody who'd have me.

Belle I'm very fond of you, dear Claude, and I thank you for your offer, but I'm afraid I don't want to marry you.

Beauty and the Beast

Plot Summary

Based on Madame Jeanne-Marie LePrince de Beaumont's 18th Century version of the traditional story. Belle's father has fallen on hard times, and on a journey to try to restore his fortunes he plucks a rose from a palace garden as a present for his daughter. The palace belongs to an ugly Beast who demands a life in return for the rose, but Belle saves her father's life by consenting to live in the palace. When she eventually falls in love with Beast, he is released from a magic spell and turns into a handsome prince.

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