

The Sleeping Beauty

**A pantomime written by
Ron Nicol**

Spotlight Publications

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Sleeping Beauty

Written by Ron Nicol

CAST (in order of appearance)

Mirabel

Mother / Queen Elinor

Father / King Pelinor

Prime Minister

Messengers

Nanny Bunion

Crumble, the Old Retainer

Grizabella, the Black Fairy

Genevra, the White Fairy

General Disorder

Archbishop Tedium

The Azure Fairy

The Lavender Fairy

The Peach Fairy

The Primrose Fairy

The Rose Fairy

Catflap

Lumpkin

Queen Ermintrude

Prince Marmaduke

Ghost of The Enchanted Forest

Lords, Ladies, Courtiers, Attendants, Servants

The Messengers and Fairies appear in Act I only. Queen Ermintrude and Prince Marmaduke appear in Act 2 only.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Act 1

Prologue

Scene 1 The Throne Room

Scene 2 The Throne Room

Scene 3 A Remote Part of the Palace

Act 2

Scene 1 The Palace Courtyard

Scene 2 Another Palace, another Kingdom

Scene 3 On The Road Somewhere, Anywhere

Scene 4 The Enchanted Forest

Scene 5 The Throne Room

MUSICAL NUMBERS

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

1. "It's Showtime" (Tulloch, from 'The Childe Rowland Songbook', Spotlight Publications) **(Chorus)**
2. "Anything You Can Do" (Berlin) **(Grizabella & Genevra)**
3. "Sleeping Beauty" (Bruns & Adair) **(Genevra)**
4. "Sleeping Beauty) (reprise) (Bruns & Adair) **(Chorus)**
5. "The Happy Wanderer" (Ridge-Moller) **or**
"It's Nice To Go Travelling" (Cahn & Van Heusen) **(Nanny & Crumble)**
6. "Together, Wherever We Go" (Sondheim) **(Catflap & Lumpkin)**
7. "It's Impossible" (Wayne & Manzanero) **or**
"What Kind Of Fool Am I" (Bricusse & Newley) **or**
"People Who Need People" (Styne & Merrill) **(Marmaduke)**
8. "We've Only Just Begun" (Williams & Nichols) **or**
"If Ever I Would Leave You" (Lerner & Loewe) **(Marmaduke & Mirabel)**
9. "A Wonderful Day Like Today" (Bricusse & Newley) **(The Company)**

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.

The Sleeping Beauty was first performed by Glenrothes Theatre Company at Newcastle Community School, Glenrothes in December 2001 with the following cast:

Mirabel	Lauren Baillie
Queen Elinor	Marie Swain
King Pelinor	Alan McCreadie
Prime Minister	Christine Stewart
Messengers	Megan Dodds, Heather Donaldson, David McNab, Stephanie Mitchell, Jaclyn Ramsay, Craig Spence, Ashley Spittal, Katy Vance
Nanny Bunion	Audrey Stevenson
Crumble	Norma Nicol
Grizabella	Clare Sinclair
Genevra	Kirsty Douglas
General Disorder	Alan Massie
Archbishop Tedium	Lee Mitchell
Fairies	Rosin Farmer, Louise Harding, Caitlin Massie, Amy Reston, Leah Turner
Catflap	Andrew Miller
Lumpkin	Scott Fraser
Queen Ermintrude	Susan Collins
Prince Marmaduke	Olivia Stewart
Ghost of the Forest	Cara Swain
Lords, Ladies etc.	Jade Bristow, Samantha Duff, Zoë Foster, Deborah Grieve, Emma Harley, Ashley Hock, Emily Kuzyszyn, Cheryl Spittal, Kirsten Walker

Directed by Ron Nicol

ACT I

Prologue

Mirabel enters into the audience

Mother *(off)* Mirabel!

Mirabel Sssh!

She signs to the audience not to give her away and hides. Mother, wearing a dressing-gown, enters

Mother Mirabel! Where are you? Have you seen my daughter? That girl's a real handful. Ah! I can see you. Come here.

Mirabel No!

Mother chases Mirabel round the auditorium during the following

Mother Don't be a nuisance, it's time for bed.

Mirabel I don't want to go to bed, it's too early...

Mother Mirabel! Please!

Mirabel No.

Mother Do you want me to get your father to you?

Mirabel No.

Mother He won't be pleased...

Mirabel I don't care.

Mother No more nonsense! For the last time, get to bed!

She manages to catch Mirabel

Got you!

Mirabel Oh, Mum. Please!

Mother What is it now?

Mirabel Can I have a story?

Mother After all this?

Mirabel All what?

Mother Anyone would think butter wouldn't melt in your mouth, young lady.

Mirabel Please! Please, please, please, please, please!

Mother *(to audience)* What do you think? Should she get a story?

Mirabel If I don't you might as well go home.

Mother Mirabel!

Mirabel It's what they've come for, isn't it? And it *is* my birthday.

Mother Well, all right. Which story do you want?

Mirabel *They* know. Sleeping Beauty!

Mother Well, all right...

Mirabel I *knew* you'd give in. You always do.

Mother You wee besom, you!

Mirabel Father's right, I *can* twist you round my little finger.

Mother One of these days...

Mirabel What?

Mother Just - one of these days, that's all. Right, sit down there.

Mirabel sits in the front row. During the following, stage lighting is slowly brought up

Mother Now, how does it begin?

Mirabel *(encouraging the audience)* Once upon a time...

Father appears on stage, wearing a dressing gown

Father Mirabel.

Mirabel Oh, Dad, don't spoil it! Mum's just started.

Father What's going on?

Mirabel Sleeping Beauty.

Father I might've guessed. Just as well I dressed up, isn't it...

Father takes off his dressing gown – he's dressed as a king

Mirabel Dad! You're just as bad as she is!

Father I just happen to know your mother's dressed up as well...

Mirabel You were going to do it all the time!

Father Well, it *is* your birthday, so let's begin. Once upon a time there was a king – King Pelinor – that's me...

Mother takes off her dressing gown and is dressed as a queen

Mother And he had a beautiful queen - Queen Elinor – that's me.

Father They were sad because they had no children...

Mother But at last the queen gave birth to a beautiful daughter, and they called her...

Mirabel Mirabel!

Mother Yes, they called her Mirabel – which means 'wonderful' – because she *was* wonderful, the answer to all their prayers.

Father The King and Queen decided to have a grand Christening. So they called the Prime Minister and all the courtiers, lords, ladies and gentlemen of the kingdom...

Scene 1

The Throne Room. The Prime Minister, General Disorder, Archbishop Tedium, Lords, Ladies, Courtiers, Attendants, Servants and Messengers enter as the lighting comes up to full

Song 1 - Chorus

Prime Minister Your Majesties. We are here to command.

Pelinor Send out messengers all over our kingdom, and invite everybody, high and low, to attend the christening of our daughter, Princess Mirabel.

Prime Minister It shall be done, Sire.

Elinor Send out special messengers to the Seven Fairies of the Realm. We must be sure they all grant their wishes for my daughter's happiness.

Prime Minister As you command, your Majesty.

Pelinor Have the best cooks in the kingdom prepare the finest dishes...

Elinor Leave that to me, my dear. Come, let's make our preparations.

Elinor, Pelinor, the General, the Archbishop, the Lords, Ladies, Courtiers, Attendants and Servants exit

Prime Minister Messengers!

Messengers Ready!

Prime Minister On your marks!

Messengers On our marks!

Prime Minister Get set!

Messengers Get set!

Prime Minister Go!

The Messengers race off and exit

Prime Minister Well, that's that. I chose them specially, you know. Fastest messengers anywhere...

The Messengers sheepishly come back and gather, muttering

Messengers Mutter, mutter, mutter.

Prime Minister What is it, now?

First Messenger Er – excuse me, Prime Minister, where are we going?

Prime Minister Ah! Um! Right! (*rapidly*) You to the North, you to the South, you to the East, and you to the West. Got that?

Messengers Yes.

Prime Minister Right. On your marks!

Messengers On our marks!

Prime Minister Get set!

Messengers Get set!

Prime Minister Go!

The Messengers race off and exit

Prime Minister Well, that's that. They may be the fastest, but they're not the most intelligent of people, I'm afraid. Perhaps I ought to change the selection procedure.

The Messengers sheepishly come back and gather, muttering

Messengers Mutter, mutter, mutter.

Prime Minister What is it now? You know where you're going, don't you?

First Messenger North.

Second Messenger South.
Third Messenger East.
Fourth Messenger Four.

The Messengers whisper together. Finally...

West.

Prime Minister Right. On your marks. Well? What are you waiting for?

The Messengers nudge each other and push First Messenger forward

First Messenger The message.

Prime Minister Ah! The message.

Second Messenger Yes. The message.

Third Messenger What is it? What's the message?

Fourth Messenger The message we've to go with? What is it?

First Messenger You're not supposed to send messengers off

without a message. (*Producing a small rule book*) According to the rules of the Messenger's Union, rule 2, paragraph 4, sub-section 6, each messenger wheresoever bound is required to be issued with an official message, properly made out and duly undersigned by a competent official, whosoever that might be.

Second Messenger (*producing a medium-sized rule book*) Furthermore, according to rule 6, paragraph 12, sub-section 36, each messenger wheresoever bound and in possession of the aforementioned official message, must also receive an approved itinerary detailing the journey to be undertaken – in duplicate.

Third Messenger (*producing a large rule book*) Furthermore, according to rule 11, paragraph 12, sub-section 13, each messenger wheresoever bound and in possession of the aforementioned official message, and having received the heretoforementioned approved itinerary, must be issued with a list of approved stopping places, watering holes, and feeding stations upon the previously mentioned route – in triplicate.

Fourth Messenger (*producing an extra large rule book*) Furthermore, according to rule 123, paragraph 456, sub-section 789, each messenger wheresoever bound and in possession of the aforementioned official message, the heretoforementioned approved itinerary, and the aforeheretoforementioned list of approved stopping places, watering holes, and feeding stations upon the previously mentioned route, must also be issued with a pair of boots – in duplicate – i.e. one for each foot.

Prime Minister Anything else?

First Messenger Well, according to the rule book, if each messenger is in possession of the aforementioned official message, the heretoforementioned approved itinerary, and the aforeheretoforementioned list of approved stopping places, watering holes, and feeding stations, and a pair of boots – no.

Prime Minister Good. Follow me. I've got some forms to fill out.

She exits with the Messengers. Nanny Bunion enters

Nanny Oh dear, I knew I'd be late. It always takes me so long to get anywhere. It's my feet. I'm a martyr to my feet. A martyr! You know what I mean. *You* know, don't you, missus? I can see you do. It's written on your face. Every line a line of suffering! Puts years on you, doesn't it? There's many a day I've been up and down half the night with my feet. Some mornings I feel like a tossed bed, so I do, and I just have to lie down till I get up. You know, I stay in bed as much as I can 'cos it helps me keep on my feet. The *troubles* I have, I can't tell you. My legs are bad as well. I've got these various veins. I'm supposed to wear them elastic stockings, but when I try to put them on they keep ping across the room. Nearly had my eye out the other day. And if it isn't one thing it's another. Many's the time I've been under the doctor. Oh yes, many a time. I go to see him every week. Well, you never know when there's something wrong with you, do you? My doctor's a lovely man – hands like feather dusters. Always warms his stethoscope before sounding your chest. Well, it's so cold if you take off your woolly vest, isn't it? I went to see him once with my stomach. Churning it was. Churning! He said it was food poisoning and I'd be all right once I got the poison out of my cistern. He gave me some *lovely* medicine. Didn't do much good, but it was great for polishing the sideboard. Which reminds me – the *things* I've to

do. I can't stand here chattering. It's too bad – you shouldn't have kept me talking. I nearly forgot – you don't know who I am, do you? I'd forget my head if I didn't have to put my hat on it. I'm Mirabel's Nanny – Nanny Bunion. Been with the family years. I was her mother's nanny too. Everybody knows old Nanny Bunion. Wait a minute. (*Peering into the audience*) Is that our Mirabel?

Mirabel Yes.

Nanny Come up here this minute. You're part of this story, you know.

Mirabel Am I? Really?

Nanny Well, not right away, but you'll have to get ready.

Mirabel leaves the audience and goes back-stage

The Sleeping Beauty

Plot Summary

A fresh and fun-filled re-telling of the favourite story. The Black Fairy doesn't receive an invitation to Mirabel's Christening, and in revenge casts a spell so that on her sixteenth birthday the Princess will prick her finger and die. Thanks to the White Fairy's intervention, she doesn't die but falls into a sleep from which she will be wakened by a prince's kiss. Nanny Bunion and Crumble are sent out to find the necessary prince, who unknown to them is already on his way. The less familiar ending is based on Perrault's version of the fairy tale in which the wicked Queen turns into an Ogre.

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