

Spotlight Publications



A pantomime by
Vicky Orman

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All enquiries to Spotlight Publications, 259 The Moorings, Dalgety Bay, Fife, KY11 9GX.
Tel. 01383 825737.

Email: enquiries@spotlightpublications.com

Website: www.spotlightpublications.com

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Dick Whittington & His Cat

CAST

Dick Whittington

Alice Fitzwarren

Tommy the Cat

Sarah the Cook

Idle Jack, Sarah's son

Alderman Fitzwarren

King Rat

Itchy & Scratchy, comedy duo

Fairy Bowbells

Fairy Dingdong

Sultan of Morocco

Chorus of Guards/ Ratlings/ Townsfolk/ Sailors/ Shark Wranglers

Place - London & Morocco

Time - mediaeval England, 14th/15th century

CHARACTER LIST AND NOTES

Dick Whittington- Principal Boy - Female

Dick is 'honest and true' and is a little naive, but fortunately the Cat is there to help him out. He must be able to slap his thigh with great panache. He has some emotional bits to do, when he's thrown out of London, and the Cat appears to be dead, so it is a little bit more character driven than a basic Principal Boy. Must be able to hold a good solo.

Alice Fitzwarren - Principal Girl - Female

Everyone likes Alice Fitzwarren - including King Rat! Alice is a fairly traditional Principal Girl, although she manages to be the one to disarm King Rat at the end, and possibly knee him in the groin in the process! She has a manipulative side when it comes to her father, and falls for Dick rapidly and completely.

Tommy the Cat - Male or Female

A typical cat in personality; apparently self-centred and food obsessed and liable to wander in during critical moments. However, Tommy is loyal underneath it all, a good friend and helps save everyone. This will be a great physical role and the Cat is very important in terms of the plot and comedy. The Cat can be heard by the audience but not by the others on stage so he has a few vitriolic asides.

Sarah the Cook - Dame - Male

Idle Jack's mum, who works for Alderman Fitzwarren as cook and shop keeper. She's saucy, in your face, kind-hearted and a normal Dame. Sets her sights on Alderman Fitzwarren and pretty much everyone else! Constantly asking the audience for help or opinions, she has a pretty strong role in keeping the audience engaged with the story and a lot of the comedy.

Idle Jack - Male

Not so much stupid as allergic to work - faints or falls asleep if someone mentions the word. Unrequited love for Alice, but generously realises that she will be happier with Dick. Does a lot of comic work with the Dame and gets a lot of the rapid fire comic lines. Physical humour a high priority, as he falls asleep comedically a lot.

Alderman Fitzwarren - Older Male

Normal father type - protective, bluff, voice of authority. Takes that a little too far on board his last ship. Reluctant to trust Dick at first but with a little intervention is convinced. Sarah is pursuing him and he appears to spurn her up to the very end. When the Sultan expresses attraction to Sarah, he then gets interested!

King Rat - Male

Thoroughly villainous villain. Gratuitously evil and threatening to the audience. Though being a giant evil rat, he has a certain style compared to his henchrats. Has already taken over most of the world, including Morocco, but when he takes over London completely, no one can stop him! Mwahahaha! The source of his power is a magic staff. Dick and his Cat are pretty much the only threat to his plans for world domination. Despises cats with a passion. He enjoys being evil, and it is important to show him in this light – lots of mischievous laughing and smiling. As is tradition, he and his henchmen will enter and exit stage left.

Itchy - Henchrat Male or Female

Both Henchrats are ratty and disgusting in appearance and mannerisms. Itchy is the more intelligent of the two, constantly in search of something to improve the condition of his fur. Longs to be a hamster. Follows King Rat even though they are all scared by him. Both appear a lot as they are constantly trying and failing to foil Dick and carry out evil plans.

Scratchy - Henchrat Male or Female

Like Itchy, very disgusting! Infested with fleas and lice. Slightly more stupid than Itchy, although that is a relative thing! Both appear a lot as they are constantly trying and failing to foil Dick and carry out evil plans.

Fairy Bowbells - Female

Young and beautiful Fairy who does things by the book, at least to start with. Inexperienced but clever and earnest in her manner. Speaks a little poshly and is booksmart not streetmart. She wants to be as good a fairy as possible and everything about her is archetypal Good Fairy. She is officially the Spirit of London, and is trying to make sure the city is in good hands. The Good Fairy duo are more involved than in most pantos and need to be a strong comedic pair. Both good fairies will, in accordance with panto tradition, enter and exit stage right.

Fairy Dingdong - Female

Older Cockney Fairy. Streetwise. Bends the rules. A little saucy and earthy. Rough diamond. A maverick. She's got the know how but has a tendency to get distracted and go off down the pub! A lot of comedy involved. The Good Fairy duo are more involved than in most pantos and need to be a strong comedic pair. Both good fairies will, in accordance with panto tradition, enter and exit stage right.

Sultan of Morocco - Male

A fun cameo role - bad Moroccan accent a must! A strong air of authority is the key.

Chorus - Adult and Junior

Guards/ Ratlings/Townfolk/Sailors/ UV Scene Shark Wranglers to name but a few!

General Notes

The run time of each act is approximately an hour so the show is not short when an interval is taken into account. Maintaining the pace of the production is vital, particularly scene changes so the script was written with a view to major scene changes being able to take place behind front cloths so transitions were seamless. The songs that were chosen were shortened versions (averaging under two minutes except for the ballet) with altered lyrics to make them more relevant to the plot of the story. For example in Song 8, Proud Mary where the Londoners are staking everything on a last ditch voyage to Morocco we adapted the a verse to be:

*Caught the only vessel in London,
Left a world of pain that the rats have caused.
This is gonna be the saving of the city,
Once we've sailed this ship to Moroccan shores.*

Altering the lyrics to fit the characters is an essential element of the comedy of the songs and a means of forwarding the plot and narrative.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT 1

Prologue - In the country
Scene 1 - The streets of London
Scene 2 - King Rat's lair & throne
Scene 3 - Fitzwarren's shop
Scene 4 - Somewhere secret
Scene 4a - Fitzwarren's kitchen
Scene 5 - Fitzwarren's kitchen
Scene 6 - Highgate Hill

ACT 2

Scene 1 - Somewhere else secret
Scene 2 - On board the 'Proud Mary'
Scene 3 - On board the 'Proud Mary'
Scene 3a - The sinking of the ship / UV scene
Scene 4 - The shores of Morocco
Scene 5 - The Sultan's palace
Scene 6a - In front of King Rat's lair
Scene 6b - King Rat's lair
Scene 7 - The community song
Scene 8 - Walk-down: the streets of London

SUGGESTED MUSICAL NUMBERS

1. London Medley (Adult & junior choruses)
2. "The Boy Does Nothing" (Alesha Dixon) (Sarah & Jack)
3. "Endless Love" (Lionel Ritchie) (Alice & Dick)
4. "Endless Love" Reprise (Alice)
5. "Lovecats" (The Cure) (Cat & junior and teenage dancers)
6. "When Somebody Loved Me" (Toy Story 2) (Dick)
7. "Carol Of The Bells" (ballet) (Chorus & junior dancers)
8. "Proud Mary" (Creedence Clearwater Revival) (Chorus)
9. "Don't Stop Me Now" (Queen) (Fairy Bowbells & Fairy Ding-dong)
10. "Jai-ho" (Pussycat Dolls) (Chorus)
11. "Bad Romance" (Lady Gaga) (King Rat, Itchy and Scratchy)
12. Finale - "Don't Stop Believing" (Journey) (Chorus)
13. "Walkdown "Don't Stop Believing" reprise (Ensemble)

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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Prologue

Overture, leading into the sound of bells ringing in a peal. There is a flashbang and Fairy Bowbells appears R. She is consulting a large book of magic and then looks up and sees the audience

Fairy Bowbells (*gushing*) Oh! Hello! Thank goodness you're here! I'm Fairy Bowbells. Oooh, this magic book is useless. (*Nice huge book - Spell Casting for Dummies*). I've just been promoted to be the guardian of London, and it's not helping at all! Me, just out of Magic School, and already given a whole city to sort out! Someone was supposed to 'show me the ropes' but they haven't turned up yet. But you'll help me, won't you? (*Waits to get a yes*) Oh, thank you - you're sooo nice!

Massive explosion R and a puff of smoke, through which Fairy Dingdong enters, looking back offstage right as if she's been talking to someone

Fairy Dingdong Cor, luvaduck, apples and pears, straight up the Old Kent Road, mate! Ere, you're 'avin' a laugh, ent'ya? (*Fairy Bowbells coughs politely*) Ooo wotcha! Sorry I'm late...Budge up, sweet'art. .. Hello, Fairy Dingdong 'ere, ...ring any bells? Ha ha ha! You've got yer work cut out, ent'ya?

Fairy Bowbells What do you mean?

Fairy Dingdong Well, I hate to break it to you, love, but you've been given a bit of a lemon with London town. I bet no-one's mentioned the really bad rat problem, have they?

Fairy Bowbells (*stuttery, a bit afraid*) Rat problem?

Crash of thunder & lightning effect as King Rat and Itchy and Scratchy enter L, very over-the-top evil

King Rat Did I hear someone talking about me? I'm the biggest rat problem you'll ever meet! I am... King Rat! Mwahah!

Itchy Bow before his Great Rattiness, all of you!

Scratchy That includes you, Fairy Dumbbell.

Fairy Bowbells Bowbells!

Itchy Whatever!

King Rat (*to audience*) Now, listen to me, you 'orrible lot!, I'm on the verge of taking over the world with my loyal army of rats. All the great cities have surrendered to me... Morocco, Berlin, Paris,(*local small village*). London will be no different!

Fairy Dingdong 'Ere, we'll see about that!

King Rat Oh yes? And who's going to help you? This lot? (*Waves at the audience*). The wheels are spinning but the hamster's done a runner... Mwahahaha! No, seriously, you know I love children... with lots of ketchup! They taste so crunchy! Mwahahaha!

Fairy Bowbells (*trying to be brave, maybe clings to Fairy Dingdong, sounds high-pitched and wobbly*) We will find someone honest and true to drive you out of London, King Rat! Mark my words!

The Rats all mimic her childishly with 'ooo get her' gestures and laugh

Scratchy Good luck finding someone honest and true in London (*sniggers and scratches*).

Fairy Dingdong We will find someone!

King Rat Oh no they won't! (*Etc. with audience*) Oh, shut your cakeholes! And even if you do find someone honest and true, I'll stop you just like I stopped all those others who tried to stand in my way.... Fairy Cake, Fairy CrosstheMersey, Fairy Liquid, Fairy Nuff, and all the other LOSERS like you.

Fairy Dingdong Why you nasty, despicable, smelly, evil...

King Rat You say the nicest things. We'll know your every move. We rats are EVERYWHERE! So don't go eating anything that looks like raisins. LOL!! That stands for Look Out London!! Remember this, when I finally take over that city, the world is mine! Mwahaa!

King Rat exits L

Itchy (*lingers, to Fairy Bowbells*) No pressure or anything. (*Leaves*)

Scratchy is left on his own, unaware that the others have left. As soon as he realizes he hastily exits L

Fairy Bowbells Oh what are we going to do? Where will we find someone honest and true? (*Excited*) Maybe I could conjure up someone to help! - I could cast my first professional spell! But which one...?

Fairy Dingdong Well... Try this one, love. One of me favourites. Can't go wrong. Wrote it meself, I did. (*Hands over screwed up manky piece of paper, with pride*)

Fairy Bowbells Oh thank you! (*Clears throat. Elaborately gets into magic casting pose waving wand - this should be very over the top. This is one of Fairy Dingdong's spells, so Fairy Bowbells reads it all very clearly and a bit posh, unfamiliar with the cockney phrasing*)

Oh magical fairy dust, please hear my call,
Cor blimey! Or London to King Rat will fall.
A word in your shell-like - we're asking of you,
To find us the one who's both honest and true!

Tinkling magical fairy bell noise as a spotlight appears on Dick, with the bundle on a stick and the Cat walking down the auditorium, whistling nonchalantly or greeting the audience, saying things like Hi, I'm off to seek my fortune, Do you like my Cat? Etc.

Fairy Dingdong Stone me! The spell's worked but look at the state of 'im! He's carrying his worldly goods in a dirty 'anky on a stick. I 'ope he washed that 'anky before he put anyfing in it! Otherwise everything will be covered in bogeys! Still, maybe he's not so bad... he's got a cat - always useful against a rat!

Fairy Bowbells Oh! Oh, I have a special spell here just for cats... I did my magic exams on it, umm... hold on..

She waits until Cat and Dick get on the stage near a comedy sign post and waves a wand and calls out a spell at Dick who freezes in mid stride. This needs to be a comfortable position for him as he will be there a while

Cat (*confused meowing sounds looking at the fairies and back at Dick. Gesturing as if to say What's going on?*)

Fairy Bowbells goes into magic pose again, unrolls what appears to be a very long spell and is about to start, when he is interrupted by Fairy Dingdong who cuts in with a quick and dirty spell

Fairy Dingdong Fairy Enchantment, we ain't got all week ,
Do us a favour and make this cat speak!

Cat Meowwww argh, what have you done to me and more importantly do you have any fish on you? Maybe cod in jelly? Or chicken and game in gravy? Sheba? Whiskas? Oh hey, can you hear me?

Fairy Bowbells Only magical people can hear you. Your master and ordinary people will not.

Cat Master? Him? Ha! Humans used to worship cats, you know. I don't have an owner, I have staff. (*Looks at audience*) So can they hear me? Helllooooo, can you hear me? (*Audience: Yes*). Does that mean they are all a bit magical?

Fairy Dingdong Well, put it this way - it was a miracle they paid money to get in here! Give 'im the spiel, love.

Fairy Bowbells (*with more confidence*) Cat! Your friend has a great destiny ahead of him. He will rid the world of a terrible evil and become Lord Mayor of London!

Cat Oh reaaaally? Hmmm.....you haven't actually met Dick, have you?

Fairy Bowbells You're going to help him with these very special Wishing Bells. There are three of them and they will call on us fairies to grant three wishes, but only if the wishes are unselfish. (*Puts collar with three bells on the Cat*). You can use them to help your friend.

Cat Help him get me breakfast, you mean? A kipper?

Fairy Dingdong Nah, I know this is difficult for you as a cat, but unselfish means not doing it for your own benefit.

Cat ...Er...no, not quite following you there. Anyway, what happens now? Do I eat?

Fairy Bowbells (*consults book*) The Rule Book says we must trust in our hero's natural goodness and honesty.

Fairy Dingdong and Cat give her a funny look

Fairy Dingdong Sorry to break it to you, love, but you want something done, it's best to nudge it along. Watch and learn, sunshine, watch and learn

She slips on a disguise and waves her wand, releasing Dick. Fairy Bowbells makes a magic gesture on herself designed to make it look like she is invisible or hides

Dick Oh hello! I didn't see you there. Gosh, it was as if you came out of nowhere! My name's Richard Whittington but you can call me ...Richard Whittington ..or just plain Dick. Can I offer you a sandwich? *(Retrieves revolting-looking squashed sarnie from hankie maybe with green slime)*

Fairy Dingdong *(waving aside offer, then, to audience)* Told you it would all be covered in bogeys. *(To Dick)* No ta, love, ... very kind. You off to seek your fortune, then?

Dick Yes! I've left *(local county)* with nothing except my wits, my willingness to work hard, and my cat Tommy.

Fairy Dingdong And where were you heading, love? London Tahn?

Dick Oh, no that's a very large place. I thought maybe... er... Sunderland ...or ...*(local small village)*.

Fairy Dingdong *(shakes head and suck air through teeth)* Tsk, you don't want to be doing that, love, you want to go to London... you know what? Streets are paved with gold there.

Dick Wow! Really?

Cat Hook, line and sinker. *(Shakes head)*

Fairy Dingdong Absolutely. Making your fortune will be easy-peasy lemon squeeze. Trust me. Streets PAVED with gold, love...far as the eye can see.

Dick Paved with gold, hmm? Well... it sounds good. I'm not sure though. Hey, they look like they know what to do. Shall I go to London, everyone? *(Aims for a resounding Yes)* Really? *(Yes!)* Okay then! I've made up my mind! I'm off to London to seek my fortune! Thanks everyone!

Dick exits R followed by the Cat

Fairy Bowbells *(shocked)* You just bent the rules there and talked directly to a mortal! That's an infringement of Fairy Law, that is! And what on earth was all that about gold pavements?

Fairy Dingdong You just wait until 2012, the streets *will* be paved with gold then - or cost so much they might as well be! Come on, Fairy Bowbells, we can't let him get too far out of our sight... Off to London!

Exit stage right - lights down

Scene 1

The streets of London. Chorus as traders and sellers. Scenery of shop fronts with comedy names including Alderman Fitzwarren's stores which has a working door

Song 1 (London Medley)

(To the tune of Any Old Iron)

Living in London,
Living in London,
We like living in London.
You look neat! Talk about a treat!
You look dapper from your napper to your feet!
Dressed in style, brand new tile,
Father's old green tie on.
I wouldn't give you tuppence for another place
But London - love London!

(To the tune of Knees up Mother Brown!)

We love London Town,
We love London Town,
Knees up, knees up,
Come and get a breeze up,
We love London Town.

(To the tune of Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious)

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious,
The thought of living out of town is something quite atrocious.
People say that we should move and what we say to them is...
Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

Um diddle diddle diddle um diddle ay,
Um diddle diddle diddle um diddle ay.

(Key change)

Um diddle diddle diddle um diddle ay,
Um diddle diddle diddle um diddle ay.

(Repeat 1st and 3rd verse simultaneously)

CODA

Living in London
Living in London
Living in London's ALL RIGHT!

Londoners bustle around selling items - baskets of bread, meat, fruit etc. This is done as the intro to the song vamps, and at the end of the song the following is shouted in the style of a busy market. Alderman Fitzwarren's shop must be visible with a workable door

Londoner 1 Get your apples 'ere today! Cor, they're luvverley!

Londoner 2 Juicy pears, I've got a juicy pear here!

Londoner 3 Nice bit o' leg! Come and get a nice bit o' leg!

Londoner 4 Who'll buy my bread? Use your loaf and get it before the rats do!

Londoner 5 Get yer iPods, lovely fresh iPods. All the latest apps. Pound a punnet.

Londoner 6 (*small child*) Mortgages, get yours 'ere, trackers, variables, 4% APR. Gor blimey! I'm robbing meself!!

Enter Sarah from Alderman Fitzwarren's shop

Sarah Coooe! 'Ello, everyone!

All 'Ello, Sarah!

Sarah 'Ello 'ello! Brace yourselves, there's shopping to be done - whoops - stop the men running away! (*To the audience*) Oo hello! I didn't see you there! Let me introduce myself. I'm Sarah, the cook for Alderman Fitzwarren who owns this shop 'ere. Do you like my outfit? I bought it for a ridiculous figure! (*Someone says 'you can say that again!'....*) Watchit! But I'm sad, you know (*looks very sad - invites aaaahs from audience*) No, I'm sadder than that! (*Aaaaahs*) I'm a widow. Yes, I've been married three times. My first husband died of mushroom poisoning. (*Aaaaahs*) My second husband died of mushroom poisoning. (*Aaaaahs*) My third husband fell off (*local tall landmark*) - well, he wouldn't eat the mushrooms! You know, we've got terrible problems in London at the moment... a plague of horrible creatures scuttling through the corridors, making a terrible racket, eating everything and staring at us with those beady unnerving eyes... but that's enough about politicians. We have a rat problem too! Hundreds of them, thousands of the furry critters, widdling and piddling on your breakfast if you're not careful! People have become so desperate they've turned to crime. Do you know, there I was about to come shopping, when this big burly bloke grabbed hold of me and said "Give me all your money!" I said "I haven't got any money on me!" and he said "I don't believe you - I'll have to search you!" Well I thought, I'm not doing anything important for the next hour or so, so I said "Feel free.." and he did! And oooh he was thorough. Well after about ten minutes he said "Alright, I believe you, you haven't got any money! and I said "You keep searching - I'll write you a cheque!"

Ooooh, do you want some sweets? I accidentally bought some... yes they just jumped into my basket. I can't possibly eat them all myself, I might put on weight. I'd hate to go up to a size 10! My wardrobe won't fit me any more!

Londoner 1 You should stop wearing the wardrobe and try the clothes instead!

Sarah Cheeky! There's always one in every crowd, isn't there? Here we go, who wants some?

Sarah goes into audience chatting and gives sweets out

Dick Whittington & His Cat

Vicky Orman's new version of the classic adventure story has all the traditional characters, plus two fairies, Bowbells and Dingdong, a remarkable talking cat, Tommy, and a truly villainous King Rat and his two 'henchrats' Itchy and Scratchy. The fun is provided by Sarah the Cook and Idle Jack

Plot Summary

Dick Whittington comes to London with his cat Tommy to seek his fortune. He is employed by Alderman Fitzwarren, and falls in love with the Alderman's daughter Alice. King Rat, bent on world domination, contrives Dick's downfall, but when the Alderman organises a expedition to Morocco, Dick gets the chance for redemption (with the help of Tommy the Cat of course), and wins a fortune and Alice's hand in marriage.

