



A PANTOMIME PAVED WITH GOLD BY
TOM WHALLEY

CAST

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

KING RAT – *The villainous vermin. Can also be Queen Rat.*

FAIRY BOW BELLS – *The magical spirit of London.*

ALICE FITZWARREN – *The Alderman's daughter. Principal Girl.*

ALDERMAN FITZWARREN – *Owner of the local store. A little bombastic.*

IDLE JACK – *Sarah the Cook's lazy and slightly silly son!*

SARAH THE COOK – *The Dame. Cook extraordinaire.*

DICK WHITTINGTON – *The hero. Principal boy.*

[**THE CAT** – *Dick's furry companion. Renamed every show!*
SULTAN VINEGAR – *The regal, powerful and commanding Sultan of Morocco.*

EXCERPT FROM ACT ONE | SCENE FOUR:

ALICE ENTERS: **SFX CUE: SHOP BELL**

SARAH: Ooh! A customer!

ALICE: [*In her own world:*] Hello Sarah! Hello Jack!

SARAH: Oh, it's only you! What's gotten into you, Alice?

ALICE: I just can't stop thinking about Dick.

SARAH: I beg your pardon!

A RAT RUNS ACROSS THE STAGE: **SFX: RAT RUN**

SARAH: What was that?

ALICE: I saw four little scurrying feet...

SARAH: ...wiry whiskers...

JACK: ...and a long pink tail!

SARAH: I think it was an R.A.T!

JACK: Not a dog!

SARAH: I worry about you sometimes! It was a...

ALICE & SARAH: Rat!

ALICE: What are we going to do?!

DICK AND [NAME OF CAT] ENTER.

DICK: Hello boys and girls!

ALICE: Dick, it's you!

SARAH: Eee! A cat! No animals allowed in here. Jack, put the cat out.

JACK: He's not on fire...

SARAH: I worry about you!

ALICE: He's a very good cat!

SARAH: Ooh Alice! Are you smitten for the kitten?

ALICE: Yes Sarah! I'm quite fond of...Richard too!

SARAH: Make yourself useful Idle Jack; pop and pick up a pilchard for the pussy!

JACK: [*Aside:*] I don't think I like Dick!

SARAH: [*Cosying up to Dick:*] My ex-husband always used to hate it when I shortened his name to Dick, especially since his name was 'Steve'!

ALDERMAN FITZWARREN ENTERS WITH A NEWSPAPER.

ALDERMAN: My ears are usually ringing with the sound of the till pinging by this time! What's awry?

ALICE: We've had a little vermin visitor!

ALDERMAN: Rats in my store?! Poppycock! If there are pests in my emporium, I'll eat my newspaper!

HE GOES TO READ HIS NEWSPAPER REVEALING A HUGE HOLE CHEWED RIGHT THROUGH THE MIDDLE.

CAT: Looks like something already has!

JACK: Those pesky pests have pilfered the Pear Drops...

ALICE: ...contaminated the Coconut Mushrooms...

SARAH: ...and gnawed at my Aniseed Balls!

ALDERMAN: It's enough to make your eyes water! Well? What are we going to do? We can't shut up shop! We're the primary purveyors of 'Pick & Mix' this side of Peckham Rye!

ALICE: I've got it!

SARAH: Well don't give it to me!

ALICE: Dick and [NAME OF CAT] could come and work here in the shop!

ALDERMAN: I don't employ any Tom, Dick or Harry!

DICK: [NAME OF CAT] *is* the best rat catcher in the whole of Gloucestershire...

ALDERMAN: A rat catcher, you say? Do you have any references?

DICK: "Nobody put's baby in the corner!" "We're gonna need a bigger boat..." "I'll be back." "You talkin' to me?!"

ALICE: At least give him an interview!

ALDERMAN: Oh, all right! Sarah, give him one!

SARAH: Gladly! Dick, first question, what do you call a broken can opener?

DICK: A *can't* opener!

SARAH: What do you give a dog with a high temperature?

DICK: Mustard. Best thing for a *hot dog*!

SARAH: And finally, are you single?

DICK: Yes.

SARAH: You're hired!

DICK: Did you hear that [NAME OF CAT]? We've got ourselves a job! Our luck is starting to turn!

ALICE: You really are quite *slick*...Richard!

DICK: What do you want me to do?

SARAH: You can help Jack with his box...

ALDERMAN: ...then we need to prepare and pack for our voyage tomorrow.

ALICE: Where are we sailing to?

ALDERMAN: We're popping to Peking!

JACK: Peking? That's 'worth a look'!

ALICE: What for?

ALDERMAN: Well, I heard a rumour Cadbury's is bringing out a new oriental chocolate bar...though it could just be a Chinese Wispa! Once you've rid us of the rodents you two can come too!

ALICE: Setting sail on my birthday! I can hardly wait!

ALDERMAN: Maybe I should give you your present a little early...

ALICE: Oh! Yes please!

ALDERMAN: Here you are my dear. I've really splashed out on you this year!

ALDERMAN HANDS ALICE A GIFT BOX. IT'S A NECKLACE.

ALICE: Oh Father! It's beautiful! A necklace! I love it!

SARAH: Let's pop it safely in the safe for safe keeping.

ALDERMAN: Good idea Sarah. Now, come on you lot! Time for bed.

SARAH: Did you hear that [NAME OF MAN]?

ALDERMAN: Dick, you stay on night watch. We need a vermin vigil!

ALDERMAN FITZWARREN EXITS.

SARAH: It's time for a night cap!

JACK: Do you want a Gin?

SARAH: No! Gin makes me sin!

ALICE: Do you want a Sherry?

SARAH: No! Sherry makes me merry!

CAT: Do you want a Rum?

SARAH: No! Rum makes me glum!

JACK: What do you want then?

SARAH: I'll have a BRANDY! Night-night boys and girls!

ALICE: Good night Dick!

THEY EXIT. [NAME OF CAT] YAWNS.

DICK: You're a tired little tomcat, aren't you? It's time for naps, perhaps. This box of choes can wait 'til the morning.

CAT: Good night, Dick.

DICK: Good night, [NAME OF CAT]. Sweet dreams!

THEY SLEEP. THE DOOR OPENS REVEALING KING RAT: **MUSIC CUE: EVIL DRONE**

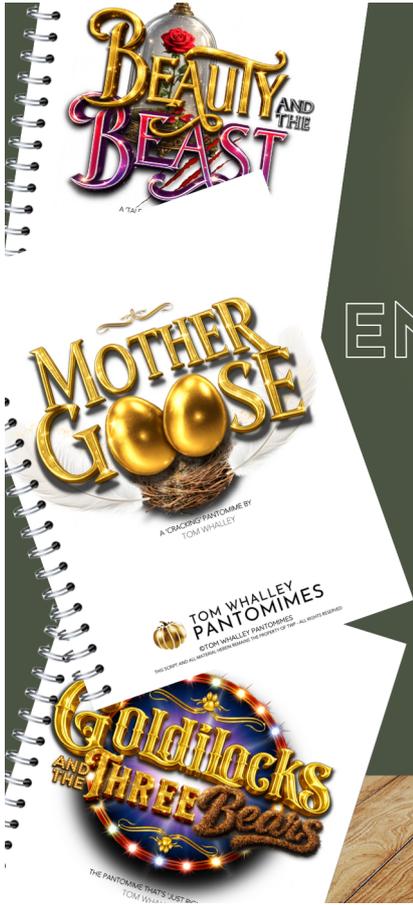
KING RAT: *Tonight's the night for my wicked mission:
To make 'darling Dick' subject of suspicion.
Their trust in him will surely dwindle when they find the necklace in his bindle!*

HE OPENS THE SAFE AND TAKES THE NECKLACE: **SFX CUE: SAFE DOOR**

KING RAT: *I've cracked the safe, I have the knack,
Now to tuck it tight in Whittington's sack...*

HE PUTS THE NECKLACE IN DICK'S BINDLE: **MUSIC CUE: STING**

KING RAT: *When morning comes, he'll take all the blame,
And then he will be gone for good...what a shame!*



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