



# Scene 1

(As **intro music** plays (**track 10**) the cast enters. Four narrators stand to one side in front of the main stage– **see staging suggestions p26.**)

**Narrator 1** Welcome to Bella Vista! Although it was a fairytale kingdom, it was probably not so very different to the place where you live. You see, there were two types of people here; the 'beautiful' ones and the....well, how can we put it.... the 'not-so-beautiful' ones!

(Between 5 and 10 'not-so-beautiful' ones enter and stand in a slovenly group on one side of the stage. They sigh in admiration as 5-10 'beautiful' ones then enter and stand posing at the other side of the stage, looking into hand-held mirrors – **see costume suggestions p28.**)

**Narrator 2** In Bella Vista, just like everywhere else, the not-so-beautiful ones wished they were beautiful and the beautiful ones wished they were more beautiful. Fortunes were spent on the trendiest new robes, gowns, tunics, tights, hats, headdresses and footwear. The hair, beauty and tanning salons were open all day, every day. Indeed, it was the citizens of Bella Vista who first coined that annoying phrase '24-7-365'! I bet you didn't know that!

**Narrator 3** (in a gossipy whisper) It was also rumoured that in Bella Vista there were places you could visit to have bits of your body changed! Noses could be straightened and wrinkles ironed-out! Tummies could be flattened and wobbly bits removed! Anything considered too big could be made smaller and anything considered too small could be made bigger!

**Narrator 4** And just like where you live, everyone wanted to know all the up-to-date gossip about the beautiful ones: who was in love with whom, who had lost or put on too much weight, whose outfits were fashion triumphs and, more importantly, whose were disasters! And keeping everyone informed about who was 'hot' and who was 'not', were the local reporters and paparazzi, who would publish their catty opinions and revealing pictures in the Bella Vista Bugle.

(Two reporters enter, carrying quills and parchment, followed by two paparazzi carrying canvases and paintbrushes. They circulate amongst the posing beautiful ones, asking questions, writing notes and painting portraits.)

**Reporter 1** Can you tell the Bugle readers who you're wearing this month? (aside whilst writing) They obviously don't make it in your size!

**Reporter 2** Any update on your engagement to Daphne Diamanté? It's off?! Such a shame! (aside whilst writing) Like we didn't see that coming!

**Paparazzi 1** Can I get a portrait over here? Great! Big smile please.....I said big smile please.

**Beautiful One 1** (with a blank expression) I am smiling!

**Paparazzi 1** Ah, I see. (aside whilst painting) Had an 'injection' or two recently!

**Paparazzi 2** Loving the new nose! Let's get that on canvas....*(aside whilst painting)*  
before it falls off!

**Narrator 4** Such was daily life in Bella Vista. Being beautiful was big business!

## **Song** **Celebrity Status** *(tracks 1 & 11, lyrics p19)*

*(Led by the Beautiful Ones, holding their mirrors!)*

*(As intro music plays (track 12) all exit and the stage is set for the next scene. Fade the music when ready.)*

## **Scene 2**

*(Two thrones, with a baby's crib between, stand centrally on the main stage. As a fanfare plays (track 13) King Hugo and Queen Maybelline enter, each carrying a fluffy, pampered lapdog – see staging suggestions/props p26. They sit on the thrones, stroking the dogs.)*

**Narrator 1** Bella Vista was ruled over by King Hugo (a.k.a. the 'Boss') and Queen Maybelline. A more glamorous couple you had never seen. Their hair, garments, makeup and accessories were expertly styled and matched, even down to their lapdogs, Gucci and Gaultier.

**Narrator 2** Now, making headlines in the Bella Vista Bugle that week was the birth of a royal baby, a precious princess whom the king and queen had named Tiffany. Just like Gucci and Gaultier, Tiffany would be a perfect accessory to show off at court.

*(Two courtiers, Ralph and Lauren, enter and bow to the king and queen. Lauren holds a baby wrapped in an expensive-looking blanket.)*

**Hugo** Ah, Ralph and Lauren, our trusted advisors. Just in time to give Gucci and Gaultier their morning makeovers?

**Maybelline** Oh, and they're booked in with their personal trainer for a walk round the gardens at noon. Errrm....Lauren, what's that you're holding?

**Lauren** Your majesties, the nannies couldn't get Princess Tiffany to settle. They thought you might like to try....you know, being her parents?

**Hugo** Who's Princess Tiff....oh yes! Our new addition to the palace!

**Ralph** So would your majesties care to take her for a few minutes?

**Maybelline** Well yes, I suppose so. But if Gucci and Gaultier get jealous then she's going straight back to the nursery. Give her here.

*(Lauren hands the 'bundle' to the Queen, who casually tosses it into the crib. We hear baby bodily functions (track 14) and the king and queen turn their noses up in disgust!)*

**Maybelline** Oh no, no, no! That won't do at all! Come, Hugo let us retire to the east wing where the air is a little fresher.

**Hugo** Of course, my dearest Maybelline. Ralph, Lauren, please see to it that Gucci and Gaultier receive all the attention necessary. And I suggest that princess Tiffany is returned to the nannies.

*(The king and queen stand and hand the dogs to Ralph and Lauren.)*

**Maybelline** Now, before we go, how are plans progressing for the royal christening banquet tomorrow? This is *the* big social event of the season – we can't have anything going wrong.

**Lauren** We're on top of everything, your majesty. All that's left to do is negotiate with the Bella Vista Bugle over the exclusive reporting and picture rights.

**Maybelline** Good. Well, all seems to be in hand. Ralph, Lauren, we don't want to be disturbed for the rest of day. Hugo, shall we?

*(The king and queen exit. Ralph and Lauren bow, then sneer at the dogs they're holding. Lauren picks up the baby 'bundle', wedging it under her arm!)*

**Ralph** We'll dump these pampered pooches with the personal trainer, give the brat back to the nannies then head to the kitchens to make sure they're ready for the christening banquet. No rest for the wicked!

*(As intro music 1 plays (track 15) they exit and the stage is set for the next scene. Fade the music when ready.)*

## Scene 3

*(In the palace kitchens, 5 cooks stand at tables laden with pots, pans, bowls and utensils.)*

**Cook 1** Why on earth we're cooking so much, I have no idea. Most of this food won't even be looked-at, never mind eaten!

**Cook 2** I know. Every guest coming to this christening banquet will be part of the 'strictly-no-carbs' brigade! Everyone's on a diet these days!

**Cook 3** Well, King Hugo wants to put on a magnificent spread just so the Bugle reports how wealthy and generous he is. And what the Boss wants, the Boss gets!

**Narrator 3** Now, every morning at eleven o'clock, the palace staff had a fifteen minute break. Sometimes one or two of them would drop by the kitchens to grab a sneaky snack and to have chat with the cooks. One of these was Bert Mulcher, the palace gardener.

*(Bert enters, carrying a spade. He wearily leans on the end of one of the tables.)*

**Cook 4** *(handing him a bread roll)* Hello Bert. Are you OK? You look shattered!

**Bert** Well, I'm not getting any sleep at the moment, what with a new-born nipper in the cottage.

**Narrator 4** You see, Princess Tiffany was not the only new arrival in Bella Vista that week. Bert Mulcher and his wife had just had a bouncing baby boy, but coming from a family of 'not-so-beautiful' ones, such a baby would hardly make headline news in the Bugle.

**Cook 5** Of course, little Alfie! Ah, how's he doing? You must be thrilled, Bert.

**Bert** Oh, we're delighted. He's a beautiful baby...well, as beautiful as the likes of us can be. And such a little character. He never stops smiling!

**Cook 1** Ah, bless him! When's his christening, Bert?

**Bert** Tomorrow, same day as Princess Tiffany's, but it'll hardly compare with that grand affair. It'll just be family and a few friends at the little chapel, then a few nibbles back at our cottage. You're all welcome.

**Cook 2** Well, if we can get away. We'll be up to our eyes with the banquet. Hey, tell you what Bert, pop by the kitchen about midday and you can have a few platters for your party. That lot upstairs won't miss 'em.

**Cook 1** Yeah, I'm sure they can spare a few crumbs from their table.....

*(Bert and the cooks are joined by other palace workers – see costume suggestions p28.)*

## **Song** **Crumbs From The Table**

*(tracks 2 & 16, lyrics p20)*

*(Led by Bert, the Cooks and Palace Workers)*

*(Just before the song finishes, Ralph and Lauren enter. They look on, unimpressed, as the workers collapse in an exhausted heap when their song finishes!)*

**Ralph** Ahem! What is going on here? Some sort of grubby 'knees-up' by the look of it! Eurgh!

**Lauren** Get back to work, all of you! Mulcher, the rose beds on the main drive need pruning before the guests arrive tomorrow. And you lot, *(to the cooks)* haven't you got a feast to prepare?

*(As intro music plays (track 17) Ralph and Lauren exit in one direction, the workers in another. The stage is set for the next scene. Fade the music when ready.)*

## **Scene 4**

*(To the fanfare (track 18) King Hugo and Queen Maybelline, again holding their dogs, enter and sit on their thrones with the crib between them. Ralph and Lauren stand in attendance. Party balloons, if possible helium ones, are attached to the crib. A crowd of not-so-beautiful ones stands in a line in front of the stage, along with the reporters and paparazzi.)*

**Narrator 1** On the day of Princess Tiffany's christening, crowds had gathered at the palace to watch the stream of glamorous guests arrive. And there to report on this prestigious event were the reporters and paparazzi.

*(The beautiful ones, carrying gifts, parade in front of the not-so-beautiful ones, signing autographs as if at a red carpet event. The reporters and paparazzi mingle with them.)*

**Reporter 1** *(to a beautiful one)* A few words for the Bugle? What have you brought Princess Tiffany as a christening gift? Something expensive?

**Beautiful One 2** It's a fur coat, made from the last remaining snow leopard in captivity. I had to pull a few strings to get it.

**Paparazzi 1** *(to a beautiful one)* Can I get a portrait over here? Those lips are stunning! They're twice the size they were when I painted them at your most recent wedding.

**Reporter 2** *(to the same beautiful one)* And could you tell the Bugle, do you expect them to be any bigger at your next wedding?

*(As the narrators speak their next few lines, the guests, reporters and paparazzi make their way onto the stage. Gifts are handed to Ralph and Lauren who toss them to the side.)*

**Narrator 2** One by one the guests bowed to the king and queen and presented their expensive gifts for Princess Tiffany. These included fine perfumes, silk scarves, diamond bracelets, exquisite confectionary, top-of-the-range cosmetics and a voucher for a facelift consultation! What more could a little baby want?!

*(The guests gather behind the thrones, jostling for prime positions.)*

**Narrator 3** King Hugo and Queen Maybelline forced a smile and muttered some short words of thanks, but they were more interested to know when their two guests of honour would be arriving.

**Maybelline** Where are they? They should be here by now!

**Narrator 4** And just then, to the cheers of the crowds outside the palace, Princess Tiffany's two fairy godmothers arrived – the most beautiful beings in the kingdom, who went by the names of Nip and Tuck!

*(Nip and Tuck enter and parade in front of the crowd. They approach the thrones and all other guests retreat to give them room.)*

**Hugo** Ah, Nip and Tuck! You are most welcome. Please, come and meet your new goddaughter and bestow your gifts upon her.

**Nip** *(glancing in the crib)* Oh dear, it's a bit wrinkly isn't it? Never mind, let's see what we can do about that. *(waving her wand over the crib)* I bestow upon you the most precious gift any princess could want; you will grow up to be...BEAUTIFUL!

*(Everyone gasps and applauds. Tuck looks a bit peeved and takes out her wand.)*

**Tuck** Oh, thanks a lot, Nip! That was going to be my gift! Ok then, Princess Tiffany, you will grow up to be.....*(everyone waits with baited breath)*..... MORE BEAUTIFUL! *(more applause!)*

**Nip** *(waving her wand competitively)* Princess Tiffany, you will be....EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THAT!

**Tuck** *(waving her wand)* AND EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THAT!

**Nip** AND EVEN MORE BEAUTI.....

**Maybelline** Yes, yes, we get the picture. Our daughter will be beautiful! Now, please let's start celebrating. Isn't this supposed to be a party?

*(During the opening bars of the song, the cooks enter with platters and wine glasses. Led by Ralph and Lauren, they circulate round the guests who ignore the food but neck the wine!)*

## **Song Let's Have A Party!**

*(Led by all at the banquet) (tracks 3 & 19, lyrics p21)*

*(During the song a mysterious hooded figure, Wanda the witch, enters and watches from the side. As the song finishes she throws off her hood.)*

**Wanda** You fools! FOOLS! A curse on this kingdom and on all of you who preen and pose!

*(There is a stunned silence, then everyone laughs heartily and points at Wanda.)*

**Beautiful One 3** Ha! Mad old Wanda the witch, trying to spoil another party just because she's too ugly to be invited! Go away Wanda, you're making the place look untidy!

**Narrator 1** Wanda the witch was well-known in Bella Vista for trying to disrupt glamorous events. She'd turn up and shout wildly at the beautiful ones, about how wrong they were to live their lives as they did. She'd usually manage to magic a hairy wart onto the end of someone's nose before she was evicted!

**Hugo** Ralph, Lauren, please see that Wanda is escorted off the premises before we have the official group pictures painted! She'll ruin them!

**Ralph & Lauren** *(stepping forward)* Come on Wanda, time to leave.

**Wanda** Wait! Before I go, I have a gift for Princess Tiffany....*(brandishing her wand)*.....and it is this: on her twenty-first birthday she will prick her finger and fall into a sleep from which she will never wake! This shall be Bella Vista's punishment for becoming such a rotten kingdom!

*(Again, there is a stunned silence before everyone laughs and points at Wanda. As **intro music** plays (track 20) Ralph and Lauren take Wanda under each arm and march her off, eagerly followed by the reporters and paparazzi who shout questions at her. All then exit and the stage is set for the next scene. Fade the music when ready.)*

## Scene 5

*(A beautiful rose bush stands centre stage – see staging suggestions/scenery p26. A grown-up Tiffany enters and gently examines the rose bush, sniffing the flowers.)*

**Narrator 2** As the years passed, Tiffany did indeed grow into the most beautiful young woman. She was pampered like you'd expect any princess to be, especially one from Bella Vista. She wanted for nothing.

**Narrator 3** But in spite of being lavished in finery all her life, she did not become spoiled. She remained pure of heart and developed a tender and loving personality.

**Tiffany** Ah, is there any greater gift than the scent of roses on a bright summer's morning?

**Narrator 4** No, this is not a joke! Against all odds, Tiffany had not been tainted by the rottenness that surrounded her. This was probably why she had become such good (although secret) friends with Alfie Mulcher, the gardener's son who had been born within hours of her.

*(Scruffily dressed in gardening attire and carrying a pair of pruning shears, Alfie enters. He bows to Tiffany and begins tending to the rose bush.)*

**Tiffany** Oh Alfie, how beautiful these roses are. You're so clever to keep our palace gardens looking this splendid, just like your father used to.

**Alfie** Thank you your highness. Although, their beauty is nothing compared to yours.

**Tiffany** Alfie, I've told you before, you must call me Tiffany. After all, we're the best of friends.

**Alfie** I know we are, your high...I mean Tiffany. But we must be careful. Just imagine if the Bugle found out about our friendship! I'm just a poor, plain, humble gardener and you're a beautiful royal princess – there'd be an uproar!

**Tiffany** I hate this situation! Why can't we be free to spend time together whenever we want, instead of having to meet in secret like this? It's just not fair.....

## **Song** A Million Miles Apart

*(Led by Tiffany & Alfie)*

*(tracks 4 & 21, lyrics p22)*

*(During the final chorus, unnoticed by Tiffany and Alfie, Ralph and Lauren sneak on stage, accompanied by the reporters and paparazzi. They hide behind the bush, peeping out and pointing at the couple, the reporters scribbling notes and the paparazzi painting pictures. As the song finishes Tiffany and Alfie exit in opposite directions and Ralph, Lauren, the reporters and paparazzi emerge from behind the bush.)*

**Ralph**            There! A right-royal scandal! Did you get all that?

**Paparazzi 1**    Absolutely! *(holding up the canvas)* Full-colour evidence of Princess Tiffany's secret liaison with a common gardener. Priceless!

**Reporter 1**    Our editor is going to be pretty chuffed when we deliver this story!

**Lauren**            *(with an outstretched palm)* So, if you'd like to pay us what we agreed.

**Reporter 2**    *(handing over a wad)* Well worth every penny! Thanks for tipping us off.

**Paparazzi 2**    Come on, let's get back to the office. Bella Vista is not going to know what's hit it!

*(As **intro music 2** plays (**track 22**) the reporters and Paparazzi scuttle off in one direction while Ralph and Lauren, counting their cash, exit in the other. The stage is then set for the next scene. Fade the music when ready.)*

**.....continued.....**