

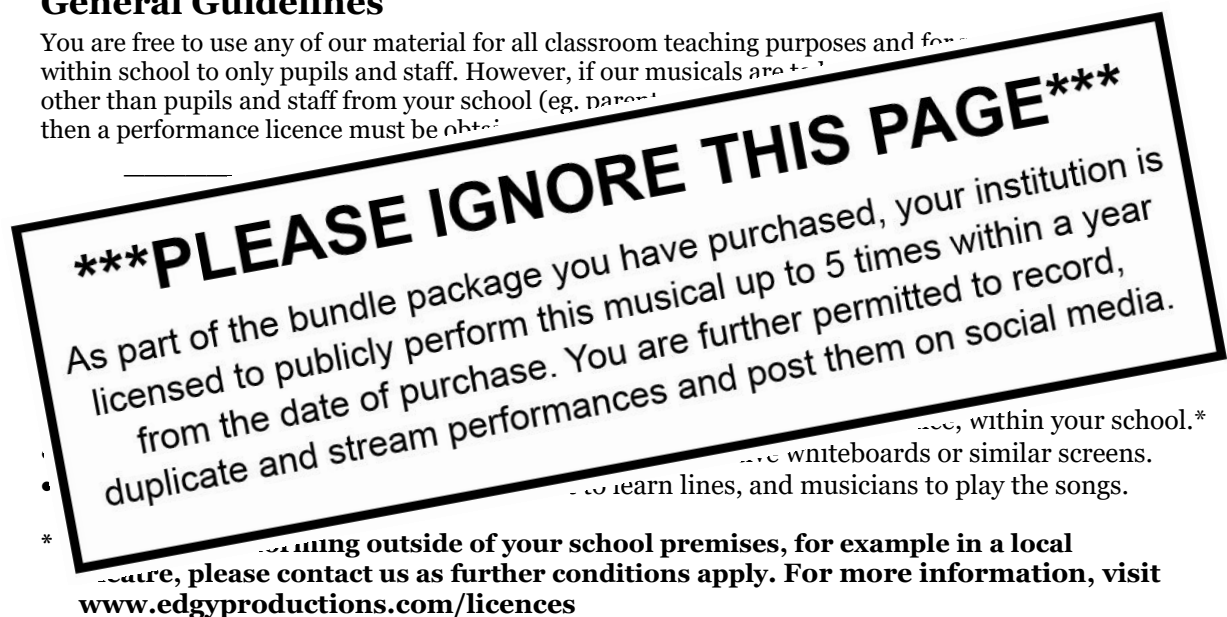
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PLOT SUMMARY

In this twist on a traditional tale, behind some hilarious shenanigans lies the important message that a person’s true beauty comes from within.

In the kingdom of Bella Vista, what matters most is how you look, how you dress and how your hair is styled! If you’re beautiful then you’re somebody, if you’re not then you’re nobody! **(song – *Celebrity Status*)** Our story begins with King Hugo (the ‘Boss’) and Queen Maybelline discussing with their courtiers, Ralph and Lauren, the forthcoming banquet to celebrate the birth of their daughter, Princess Tiffany. Down in the palace kitchens, along with other lowly palace workers, the cooks take a break from preparing the feast to toast the birth of another baby. The gardener, Bert Mulcher, has had a son, Alfie, and has come to sneak a few titbits from the banquet platters to help his poor family celebrate. **(song – *Crumbs From The Table*)**

On the day of the banquet, crowds gather to watch the glamorous guests arrive at the palace. **(song – *Let’s Have A Party*)** With reporters and ‘paparazzi’ present, the guests preen and pose as they show off the expensive gifts they have brought for the new princess. It is, however, her two fairy godmothers, Nip and Tuck, who bestow the best gift of all upon Tiffany...the gift of beauty! Things soon take a turn when the party is ‘crashed’ by the mysterious witch, Wanda, who chastises everyone for their shallow vanity. Enraged by the way these people live their lives, Wanda too bestows a gift on the baby princess, in the form of a curse: on her 21st birthday Tiffany will prick her finger and fall into a sleep from which she will never wake! Believing Wanda to be a crackpot, the king and queen have her evicted and her curse is soon forgotten.

As the years pass, Tiffany indeed grows up to be beautiful, but she is also kind-hearted, loving and generous, unlike those around her. She has become close friends with the poor gardener’s son, Alfie Mulcher, who tends to the rose bushes. Although fond of each other, they both know there would be uproar if their friendship was discovered. **(song – *A Million Miles Apart*)** Having been tipped off by Ralph and Lauren, the Bella Vista Bugle exposes the couple and, to avoid further scandal, Alfie is exiled from the kingdom while plans are made to find Tiffany a ‘suitable’ husband! At the subsequent banquet to celebrate her 21st birthday, whilst mournfully carrying one of the roses grown by her lost friend, Tiffany pricks her finger on a thorn and Wanda’s forgotten curse is realised. However, it is not only the princess who falls asleep; the entire kingdom succumbs and Bella Vista falls silent! **(song – *Sleep*)**

As time moves on, a tall, thorny hedge grows around the sleeping kingdom. Outsiders talk of the legendary curse and of the beautiful princess that lies asleep within the palace walls. This prompts some very posh (if slightly sleazy) princes to try and chop their way through the hedge to wake the beauty up, but they fail rather comically!

Alfie returns from exile to discover Bella Vista’s sinister circumstances. However, his honourable heart and character mean that he can break the curse. The thorny hedge softens and parts at his touch and he enters the kingdom where all wake from their slumber **(song – *Rise And Shine*)**, all that is apart from Tiffany. How can she be awoken? Well, this is a fairytale so there’s only one thing to do....the girl needs to be kissed and there’s only one man for the job! With Alfie and Tiffany reunited, the kingdom is dramatically changed for the better. Everyone realises what is important, namely being honest and true to one’s heart, and the behaviour of old is no more. Bella Vista is now a truly beautiful place in which to live! **(song – *Look Inside*)**

CHARACTERS

NB – for larger schools, extra speaking characters can easily be added to groups (shown below by *) and lines shared out between them. Equally, for smaller schools, these character groups can easily be reduced and the lines spoken by fewer actors.

(35 speaking parts in order of appearance)

4 Narrator(s) *

2 Reporters *

2 Paparazzi *

3 ‘Beautiful’ Ones *

King Hugo (a.k.a. the ‘Boss’)

Queen Maybelline

Ralph and Lauren – *scheming courtiers*

5 Cooks *

Bert Mulcher – *the palace gardener*

Nip and Tuck – *fairy godmothers*

Wanda – *a mysterious mystic*

Alfie Mulcher – *Bert’s green-fingered son*

Princess Tiffany

5 Citizens *

4 Princes *

**For a
character
line-count &
costume
suggestions
see p28**

(Ensemble characters for featured songs and scenes)

‘Beautiful’ Ones

‘Not-So-Beautiful’ Ones

Palace Workers

Tall Trees



Scene 1

(As **intro music 1** 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 1** 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 1 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 2** 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.)*



Scene 6

*(The thrones stand centre stage – no crib this time. Ralph and Lauren stand in attendance. Maybelline sits, holding two different lapdogs– **see staging suggestions/props p26**. Hugo stomps up and down, holding a copy of the Bella Vista Bugle. The headline reads ‘ROMANCE BY THE ROSE BUSH!’*

- Hugo** Romance by the rose bush!? ROMANCE BY THE ROSE BUSH! I tell you, heads will roll!
- Maybelline** Calm down, Hugo. You’re scaring Rimmel and Revlon – poor babies!
- Hugo** Calm down? CALM DOWN? Have you read this?
- Maybelline** Of course I have, along with everyone in the kingdom. But losing your cool won’t help. We need to think about this sensibly.
- Ralph** Ahem, your majesties, we can smooth this over quite easily. Firstly, we plant one of the princess’s diamond bracelets in Alfie Mulcher’s cottage, then we tell the Bugle that we have evidence he’s a thief.
- Lauren** We then simply make him ‘disappear’. Tiffany’s honour will be restored and we can set about finding her a suitable husband.
- Maybelline** Ralph, Lauren, that’s an excellent solution! We’ll leave it to you to arrange things. But first *(handing over the dogs)*, Rimmel and Revlon need their nails painting.

*(Hugo and Maybelline exit, leaving Ralph and Lauren gritting their teeth at the dogs! As **intro music 2** plays (**track 23**) they also exit, holding the dogs at arms’ length and muttering to each other about the true meaning of the phrase ‘it’s a dog’s life’! The thrones are left in place. Fade the music when ready for the next scene.)*



Scene 7

(As the narrator speaks, Alfie wanders in front of the stage, carrying a bundle on a stick. He sits forlornly, head in hands.)

Narrator 1 True to their word, the two scheming courtiers framed Alfie Mulcher, who was branded a common criminal by the Bugle. He was sent into exile and told never to return to Bella Vista.

(With his head bowed, Alfie stands and exits.)

Narrator 2 As a few more years passed, most people forgot about the scruffy gardener’s son and the trouble he’d caused the royal household. Apart from his family, only Princess Tiffany felt any loss. She became withdrawn and was rarely seen in public anymore, preferring to spend her time in the garden, tending to her beloved rose bush.

Narrator 3 Frustrated by her behaviour, the king and queen thought she needed a distraction, and what better distraction than another banquet? Arrangements were made for the beautiful ones of Bella Vista to flock to the palace to celebrate Tiffany’s twenty-first birthday. This party would surely shake a bit of life into the princess who, quite frankly, was becoming a bit of a royal embarrassment!

(The cooks enter and stand to one side holding platters, as the stage again fills with the beautiful ones, including the reporters, paparazzi, Nip and Tuck etc. Holding glasses and balloons they gather round the thrones where the king and queen are seated, holding their lapdogs, with Ralph and Lauren in attendance. They look around impatiently.)

Maybelline Where on earth has she got to? This is her birthday party!

Hugo She’ll be moping by that rose bush like she always does. Ralph, Lauren, please fetch the dozy girl from the garden immediately.

(Ralph and Lauren exit as all the guests look embarrassed and uncomfortable at the situation. The king and queen stroke the dogs impatiently and smile apologetically at the guests. Ralph and Lauren then return with Tiffany, who is carrying a single rose.)

Tiffany I’m so sorry for keeping you waiting. The roses smell so beautiful today, I just lost track of time. Here *(holding out the rose to the king)*, see for yourself.

Hugo *(angrily stepping forward)* I don’t care about your silly roses. When are you going to start behaving like a royal princess?

Narrator 1 King Hugo reached out and angrily pulled the rose from Tiffany’s delicate hands. As he did so, a sharp thorn pricked her on the finger!

*(Tiffany squeals in pain and sucks on her finger. We then hear the **enchantment** sound effect (track 24) and she collapses unconscious on the floor. Everyone gasps and points!)*

Narrator 2 So the curse put on Tiffany by Wanda the witch, twenty-one years ago, had now been realised. The princess had, indeed, pricked her finger and had fallen into a sleep from which she would not wake!

Narrator 3 But what nobody knew was that Wanda’s curse went even deeper!

*(As the **enchantment** sound effect plays again (**track 25**) everyone else on stage collapses. The king and queen slump in their thrones, letting the dogs fall to the floor!)*

Narrator 4 Every living creature in the kingdom had fallen under Wanda’s spell!
Not a single soul was spared the curse, as every room, in every house, in every street in Bella Vista fell silent!

*(The trees enter and crouch down in a line along the front of the stage – **see costume suggestions p26**. As Narrator 1 speaks, and during the song, the trees slowly stand to full height, linking arms and obscuring all those on stage.)*

Narrator 1 As time rolled by, a tall, thick hedge grew around the palace. Twisting trunks and branches of dense leaves and vicious thorns imprisoned all those within the grounds. Not that they knew anything about it – they were all asleep!



Song **Sleep** *(tracks 5 & 26, lyrics p23)*

(Led by the trees, supported by all those not asleep on stage)

Scene 8

Narrator 2 After ten long years, all that could be seen of the palace from the outside were the flags on the topmost turrets of the highest towers. People from neighbouring kingdoms would look at it from a distance, talking in whispers about the curse of Bella Vista.

(Citizens of the neighbouring kingdoms gather in front of the trees.)

Citizen 1 I remember I tried to visit that palace a long time ago. They wouldn’t let me in because I wasn’t wearing the right shoes!

Citizen 2 Well, you couldn’t get in there now even if you did have the proper footwear. Those trees and thorny bushes are impenetrable!

Citizen 3 And if by some chance you did manage to chop your way through, they say that nobody inside is awake!

Citizen 4 Best thing for everyone, I say. Those Bella Vistans were a vain and stupid lot, always looking down on others.

Citizen 5 Well, I heard that the princess was good and kind. In time she could have helped that kingdom become a better place, but she’s out-cold like the rest of them!

Citizen 1 Rumour has it that she is incredibly beautiful, although she never married. It’s strange, there are plenty of eligible, handsome princes on the market at the minute. I wonder why none of them has ever tried to get in there and wake her up!

(To the ‘horses enter’ sound effect (track 27), four princes, on hobby horses, gallop in and crash in a pile-up, their shields and swords clattering – see costume suggestions p28. The citizens scatter to the sides and watch. The princes dust themselves down and pick up their shields, swords and hobby horses. When they speak, they are very posh and a little sleazy.)

Prince 1 What ho! I say, did someone just mention a beautiful, unmarried princess, in need of being woken up by a handsome prince? Well...
*(puffing his chest out)...*look no further!

Prince 2 Ha! A duffer like you doesn’t stand a chance! I can wake her up, no problem. The thing is, when she sees me...*(puffing his chest out)...*she’ll think she’s still dreaming! Lucky girl!

Prince 3 What a load of poppycock! There’s only one horse in this race, old chap, and that’s yours truly. A princess needs a stallion...*(puffing his chest out and looking down his nose at the others)...*not a pony!

Prince 4 Well, gentlemen, there’s a lot of thorns and brambles between us and the sleeping beauty. I say we make a race of it – the first one through that hedge claims the prize!

Princes 1, 2 & 3 That’s a spiffing idea!

(The princes excitedly drop their hobby horses and hold up their swords. They spread out in front of the trees.)

Prince 4 On the count of four then chaps...one, two, three....

(Before he can get to ‘four’ the other princes turn and start chopping at the trees.)

Prince 4 By Jove! That’s dashed unsporting of you! Wait for me!

*(He turns and begins chopping. To the **chopping music (track 28)** a ‘battle’ between the princes and the trees begins. In a choreographed sequence for the duration of the music, the trees raise their fists and deflect the blows from the princes. They grab and maul the princes, scratching their bodies and faces and ruffling their hair! The princes make no progress through the trees and, as the music ends, they collapse exhausted!)*

Prince 4 Golly! My tights are ripped to blazes!

Prince 3 *(wincing)* And I’ve got thorns stuck in some un-mentionable places!

Prince 2 I hate to admit it chaps, but I think that darned hedge has got the better of us.

Prince 1 I agree. But fear not, I hear there’s a devilishly pretty wench in the next kingdom who’s been captured by a dragon. Sorting that out should be a stroll in the park compared to this. You fancy it?

Princes 2, 3 & 4 Do we ever!

(The princes get back on their hobby horses, wave their swords, shout ‘TALLY HO!’ and to the ‘horses exit’ sound effect (track 29) they gallop off! The citizens return to the centre, shaking their heads.)

Citizen 2 Well, if those four are the best male specimens around, that poor girl is never going to be woken up!

(Alfie enters carrying his bundle on a stick.)

Citizen 3 Ey up! Here comes another one to try his luck. Mind you, if those last four couldn’t manage it, this sorry excuse doesn’t stand a chance!

(The citizens exit. Alfie approaches the trees.)

Alfie Judging by the state of this hedge, they obviously never got round to finding a replacement gardener after I got the boot.

Narrator 3 Alfie Mulcher, the poor lad who had been so badly treated by the kingdom he’d grown up in, had returned home.

Narrator 4 For the ten years he’d spent in exile, he’d wandered from place to place, taking any work that was available. But now, a small voice inside his head had told him it was time to come back to Bella Vista.

Narrator 1 He had a strong feeling that the people needed his help. Indeed, his heart told him that the person he had missed above all others, his childhood sweetheart Princess Tiffany, needed his help the most.

Narrator 2 Now, magic is a funny thing – its effects are never set in stone. The strongest of spells can sometimes be broken by a true and honest person with good and kind intentions, even without them knowing they are doing so. Wanda’s curse was one such spell, and Alfie Mulcher was one such person.

*(As Alfie touches the middle tree, the **enchantment** sound effect plays again (track 30) and all the trees turn round, showing the roses on their backs– see costume suggestions p28. The middle trees then stand apart to create a gap through to the stage.)*

Alfie Well, I always knew I had green fingers, but this is something else!

Narrator 3 Where others had failed, Alfie succeeded. At his touch, the twisting, thorny branches softened and produced beautiful roses. They then slowly parted to reveal a path through to the hidden palace.



(Alfie walks through the trees which all fall back to the sides, leaving the whole of the stage on view. He wanders round, but not near Tiffany.)

Alfie Wow! This looks like the after-effects of one heck of a party! Hello! Is anyone awake? HELLO! RISE AND SHINE!

(Everyone except Tiffany yawns, stretches and wakes up.)

Song Rise And Shine *(tracks 6 & 31, lyrics p24)*

(Whole cast, except for the sleeping Tiffany)

Note –Track 6 has both the main and backing vocals recorded so you can hear how the song sounds in full. Track 7 is a version of the song with just the backing vocals, so you can hear how they should be sung and teach them accordingly. Track 8 has just the main vocal.

- Hugo** *(putting an arm round Alfie's shoulder)* Why, young Alfie Mulcher! How wonderful to see you! It appears we owe you a debt of gratitude!
- Narrator 4** Hmmm? This was the first sign that things in Bella Vista were now somewhat different than before the curse fell. Alfie Mulcher, the scruffy, common gardener, was being welcomed by the king himself! But before anyone could start celebrating the fact that Wanda's curse seem to have been lifted, it was down to Ralph and Lauren to point out one small fly in the ointment.
- Ralph & Lauren** *(pointing)* Princess Tiffany is still asleep!
- Maybelline** *(kneeling by Tiffany)* Tiffany! Tiffany darling! WAKE UP!
- Narrator 1** This was the next sign that things had changed. Queen Maybelline was actually concerned about her daughter! She even called her 'darling'!
- Narrator 2** But let's get back to the matter in hand. As you all know, in any fairytale when a princess has to be brought back to consciousness, there is only one thing to do. All together.....
- All** FIND A HANDSOME PRINCE TO GIVE HER A KISS!
- (To the 'horses enter' sound effect (track 32), the four princes gallop in and, again, crash in a pile-up.)*
- All Princes** What ho! Does someone need a handsome prince? Well... *(puffing their chests out)*...look no further!
- Hugo** *(stepping forward)* No! Not you trumped-up peacocks! We need a man of honour and integrity, someone with a heart worthy of our precious daughter.
- Narrator 3** And here was yet another sign that things had changed. The king was using words like 'honour' and 'integrity'. Before the curse, the only things that were of importance in Bella Vista were looks and appearance.
- Nip** Well, it's quite obvious that there's really only one man for the job.
- Tuck** And he's standing here before us.....
- All** GO ON, ALFIE! GIVE HER A KISS!
- Alfie** Well.....I.....err.....I'm a bit embarrassed to tell you the truth.
- Reporter 1** You know what, I think perhaps some things are best done in private. Come on everyone, let's give them a little space shall we.
- Paparazzi 2** Of course. This is a special moment between the two of them. It's nobody else's business.

Narrator 4 And yet another sign! The press were showing consideration for people’s privacy!

(Everybody moves forward and lines up in front of Alfie and the sleeping Tiffany, so they can’t be seen. The long ‘kiss’ sound effect plays (track 33) during which everyone looks slightly embarrassed, wondering when it will stop. As the final smack of the kiss is heard, the line parts in the middle as Alfie steps forward holding Tiffany’s hand!)

All SHE’S AWAKE! PRINCESS TIFFANY IS AWAKE! HURRAY!

Narrator 1 So, is this the end of our story? Well, not quite. Tiffany and Alfie were married of course, and guess who led their wedding ceremony.....
(Wanda enters and stands between them)....Wanda the witch!

(To more cheers, confetti is thrown.)

Narrator 2 Wanda became an important person in Bella Vista, advising what new laws should be passed to help make the kingdom a fair and happy place for all its citizens.

Narrator 3 From then on, each and every person was looked upon as equal, whatever their job, whatever their appearance and whatever their choice of clothes and hairstyle.

Narrator 4 Everyone was free to be who they wanted to be, to love who they wanted to love. Whilst people worked hard for the good of all, individual tastes and opinions were still respected – you could still find the weird and the wonderful in Bella Vista!

Narrator 1 But, most importantly, every single person was now judged only by their character, by how they treated others and by what was in their heart. Yes, everything in the kingdom had changed for the better..... well, nearly everything.

(Maybelline and Hugo hand the lapdogs to Ralph and Lauren.)

Maybelline Ralph, Lauren, if you wouldn’t mind, Rimmel and Revlon need to go and...err....water the rose bushes.

Ralph & Lauren Oh brilliant!

Song **Look Inside** *(tracks 9 & 34, lyrics p25)*
(Whole cast)

THE END

Celebrity Status

(Optional solo lines for individual 'Beautiful Ones')

Verse 1 We love gazing into mirrors
Any chance we get.
It's the one and only pastime
Of the trendy set!
Being beautiful must be
Our primary objective,
Though some say we're shallow
And we're lacking in perspective!

Chorus *We have to be noticed,
Again and again.
There is nothing in this life
That's worse than being plain.
Good looks elevate us to celebrity status.
Keeping up our profile is our undisputed aim!*

Instrumental – *during which the beautiful ones parade round the stage,
posing, looking in their mirrors and preening themselves.*

Verse 2 Always seeking ways to help
Our images improve.
'Haute couture' and 'haute coiffure',
They keep us 'in the groove'!
Top notch clothes and hairstyles
Mean that everybody pinches
Front page pictures here and there,
And gossip column inches!

Chorus *We have to be noticed.....*

Repeat Chorus

Crumbs From The Table

(Optional solo lines for individual cooks or workers)

Verse 1

(Bert shouts) Alright you lot, 'ow about a little sing-song? Laaarvely!

(All sing) We've not got the airs and graces
One might see at the Savoy.
All those poseurs call us 'riff-raff',
'Commoners' or 'hoi polloi'.
We don't act all la-de-da,
We're not too polished, or genteel.
Unlike them we have kind hearts
'Cos we live in a world that's real.

Chorus *We have little, they have lots,
Lots more than they need.
We lead simple, modest lives,
Theirs are filled with greed.
We will do our best to grab
A freebie when we're able.
Won't feel guilty pilfering
A few crumbs from the table!*

Verse 2

*(Bert shouts) Yeah, we might be poor but we know 'ow to 'ave a good time,
don't we! Come on, all together now.....!*

(All sing) None of us has pots of cash
But we know how to make ends meet.
We've enough to have a knees-up
Now and then - we like a treat!
We don't shop at fancy stores,
We only pay what something's worth.
Leave enough to throw a party –
We're proper salt of the earth!

Chorus *We have little, they have lots.....*

Instrumental – *during which Bert, the cooks and the workers re-create a
good old east-end, belt and braces, bar-room jig!*

Chorus *We have little, they have lots.....*

Repeat chorus

Let's Have A Party!

Verse 1 Let the champagne corks go pop,
Let the music play!
Let the fun and games continue
Till the break of day.
Dancing all night long,
Like we just don't care!
Get a little crazy!
LET'S HAVE A PARTY! YEAH!
Let the champagne corks go pop,
Let the music play!
Let the fun and games continue
Till the break of day.

Verse 2 Come on people
And fill the floor,
Move like you've never
Moved before!
Throw some shapes,
Don't be square!
Free your hips and
LET'S HAVE A PARTY! YEAH!
Come on people
And fill the floor,
Move like you've never
Moved before!

Verses 1 & 2 together

Let the champagne corks go pop, Let the music play! Let the fun and games continue Till the break of day. Dancing all night long, Like we just don't care! Get a little crazy! LET'S HAVE A PARTY! YEAH! Let the champagne corks go pop, Let the music play! Let the fun and games continue Till the break of day.	Come on people And fill the floor, Move like you've never Moved before! Throw some shapes, Don't be square! Free your hips and LET'S HAVE A PARTY! YEAH! Come on people And fill the floor, Move like you've never Moved before!
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LET'S HAVE A PARTY! YEAH!

A Million Miles Apart

Verse 1

(Tiffany solo) Why am I not free to choose the life I want to lead?
A pampered little princess, I have much more than I need.
Everybody watching every little thing I do,
When all I want is just to be with you.

Chorus

(All) *They are from such different worlds,
A friendship cannot ever start.
These two worlds will never meet
Because they are a million miles apart!*

Verse 2

(Alfie solo) Tiffany, you're beautiful, no-one would disagree,
But it's your kind and gentle heart that's beautiful to me.
Tell me, is there anything a boy like me can do
To make them see I'm good enough for you?

Chorus *They are from such different worlds.....*

Repeat chorus

Sleep

- Verse 1** In this kingdom, all is quiet,
Living things drift off to sleep.
Thorny rose and silken cobweb
Circle those who slumber deep.
In the stillness gilded statues
Silently their vigils keep.
In this kingdom, all is quiet,
Living things drift off to sleep.
- Verse 2** In suspended animation,
As the outside world moves on.
Nature casts a mighty shadow,
Keeps them hidden from the sun.
There is time for slow reflection
On the past wrong deeds they’ve done.
Maybe chance of swift redemption,
On the day all dreams have gone?
Maybe chance of swift redemption,
On the day all dreams have gone?

Rise And Shine

Verse 1 That was a long, long sleep, (a long, long, sleep)
It was a sleep so deep, (a sleep so deep)
We’ve been out cold for ages, so it seems! (so it seems)
How it happened we don’t know (we don’t know)
But it must be years ago, (years ago)
When we dozed off into a world of dreams!
(ah-ah-ah-ah... world of dreams)

Chorus *But now it’s time, (now it’s time)
To rise and shine. (rise and shine)
We have a brand new start, (a brand new start, a)
A brand new day! (brand new day)
Wave goodbye to slumberland, (slumberland)
There’s a great big job in hand, (job in hand)
And we can’t wait to get it underway!
(ah-ah-ah-ah...underway)*

Verse 2 We can’t remember much, (remember much)
’Cause we’ve been out of touch! (been out of touch)
There was some sort of party, we were there! (we were there)
And because of too much cheer (too much cheer)
Our sore heads aren’t all that clear! (all that clear)
But life is looking good, so we don’t care!
(ah-ah-ah-ah...we don’t care)

Chorus *But now it’s time, (now it’s time).....*

Repeat chorus

Repeat *And we can’t wait to get it underway!
(ah-ah-ah-ah...underway)
YEAH!*

Look Inside

Verse 1 Well, each and every one of us
Has a story to share.
We witness acts of love and hate,
We see neglect and care.
And there behind each pair of eyes,
However sad they seem,
There lies a heart that beats with hope,
A soul that dares to dream.
A million different things combine
To make us who we are,
But only what’s within can make us shine
Like the brightest star.

Chorus *Look inside, look inside.
‘Cause that’s where real beauty always hides.
Let it out, give the world something to sing about.
Then you’ll be free to be who you want to be.
Open your heart wide, and look inside.*

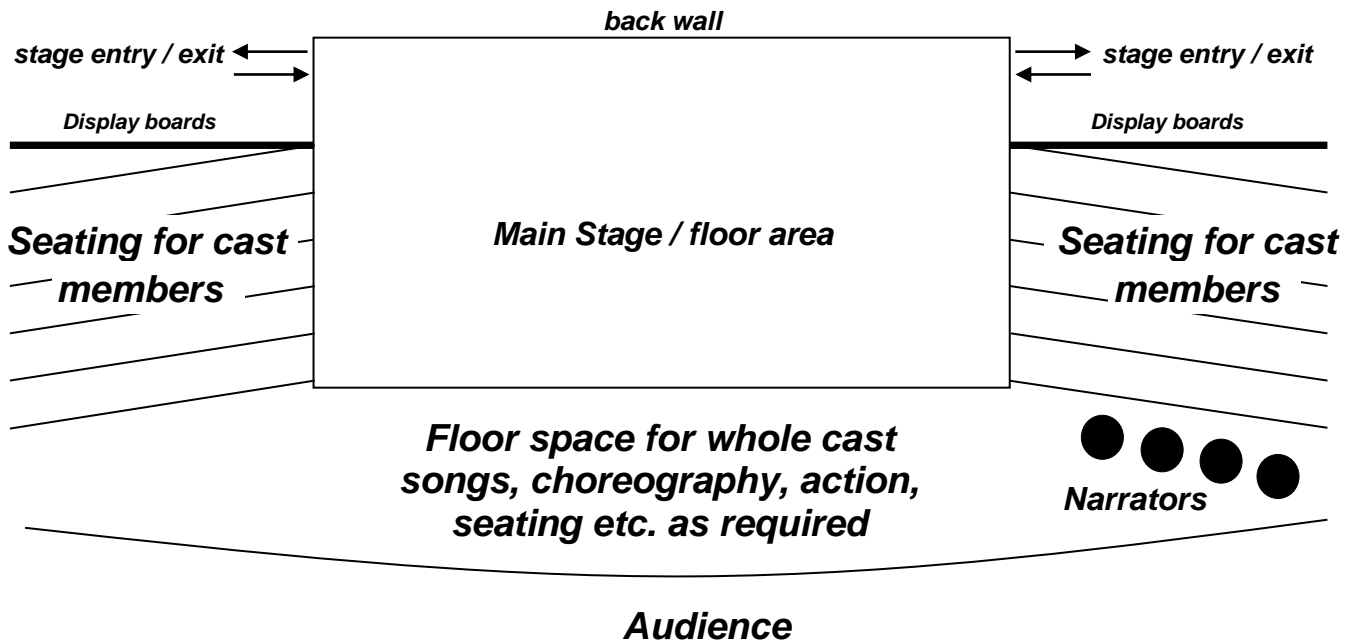
Verse 2 For each and every one of us
There’s a journey to make,
And where it leads depends upon
The path you choose to take.
And if you’re seeking treasure,
Then best heed the words of old:
‘Dig deep below the surface,
All that glitters isn’t gold.’
A million different things combine
To make us who we are,
But only what’s within can make us shine
Like the brightest star.

Chorus *Look inside, look inside.....*

Repeat chorus

STAGING AND PRODUCTION SUGGESTIONS

‘Sleeping Beauty – the ugly truth’ has been written to be adaptable to most school hall set-ups, whether you have a stage or not. Below is just one representation of a possible staging layout.



- **Scenery** – The back wall behind the main stage could display a fairytale castle, with turrets and pennants set against a blue sky. Either side of the stage, the display boards behind the seating areas could be decorated to show sculpted bushes and topiary found in stately gardens. For scene 5 create a large card or plywood cut-out of a rose bush which can be attached to a chair on its unseen side for support. Or.....



Why not use our NEW DIGITAL BACKDROPS!

Professional hi-resolution images for each scene which can be displayed/projected onto your hall whiteboard or onto the wall behind the stage. See our website for details.

- **Furniture** – Not a lot required: for the thrones, decorate two classroom chairs with ornate high backs, and for the kitchen tables in scene 3 simply cover classroom tables with tablecloths.
- **Props (listed by scene)**
 - Scene 1:** A hand mirror for each ‘beautiful one’. Quills and parchment for each reporter. A square canvas and paint brush for each paparazzi.
 - Scene 2:** Two fluffy toy dogs with sparkly collars. An ornate baby basket or cot. A baby doll wrapped in an expensive-looking blanket.
 - Scene 3:** A selection of pots, pans, bowls and cooking utensils. Bread rolls. A garden spade or fork.

Scene 4: Helium party balloons. Expensively-wrapped gifts. Three magic wands. Platters of nibbles. Champagne bottles and glasses.

Scene 5: A pair of pruning shears. A wad of cash.

Scene 6: Two different fluffy toy dogs. A tabloid-style newspaper.

Scene 7: A bundle on a stick. Helium party balloons. Platters of nibbles. Champagne bottles and glasses. A single rose with long stem.

Scene 8: Four hobby-horses. Four shields and swords.

- **Costume** – For individual character suggestions, **see page 28**. Most of these suggestions (apart from the ‘Beautiful Ones’) are traditional fairytale/panto costumes. You may like to use more modern costumes, for example having the ‘not-so-beautiful ones in scruffy jeans and t-shirts and the king and queen in sharp suits. If re-creating a modern version then the paparazzi could have cameras instead of canvases and paintbrushes, and could be dressed in ‘hack’ clothes similar to the reporters. The princes could be dressed as country gents, allowing them to still ride their hobby horses.
- **Use of Space** – Large groups can be involved in the performance of most of the songs. A space on the floor in front of the main stage could be used to accommodate extra bodies. In this space, for some songs, the cast could perform dance routines. A seating area for resting performers could be allocated either side of the stage. This lets them enjoy the performance as part of the audience, allows easy movement on and off the stage, and of course eliminates the need for back-stage supervision.
- **Audience seating** – The audience could be in one block facing the stage, or in two blocks separated by an aisle wide enough for the entrance of some characters from the back, or to allow some of the drama and choreography to be performed on the floor.

Of course, should you have any questions, or if you want further advice about putting on this musical, please email us and we’ll be happy to give you all the information you need.

Character	Number of spoken lines *	Singing Solo	Costume Suggestions
Narrator #1	11		Heraldic tabard/tunic & tights
Narrator #2	10		As Narrator 1
Narrator #3	10		As Narrator 1
Narrator #4	10		As Narrator 1
Reporter #1	4		Trilby-style hat and long coat
Reporter #2	3		As Reporter #1
Paparazzi #1	4		Artist’s smock and beret
Paparazzi #2	3		As Paparazzi #1
Beautiful One #1	1	optional	Outlandish garments and in the style of Jean-Paul Gaultier
Beautiful One #2	1	optional	As Beautiful One #1
Beautiful One #3	1	optional	As Beautiful One #1
King Hugo	11		Crown & fine robes
Queen Maybelline	13		Crown & fine robes
Ralph	8		Butler’s outfit – bowtie & tails
Lauren	8		As Ralph
Cook #1	3		Chef’s whites, apron and hat
Cook #2	2		As Cook #1
Cook #3	1		As Cook #1
Cook #4	1		As Cook #1
Cook #5	1		As Cook #1
Bert Mulcher	4		Soil-stained apron over tunic & tights
Nip	4		Fairy costume & wings
Tuck	3		As Nip
Wanda	2		Black, hooded cape & gown
Alfie Mulcher	6	1 verse	Soil-stained apron over tunic & tights
Princess Tiffany	5	1 verse	Pretty princess dress & tiara
Citizen #1	2		Tunic, tights & brimmed hat
Citizen #2	2		As Citizen #1
Citizen #3	2		As Citizen #1
Citizen #4	1		As Citizen #1
Citizen #5	1		As Citizen #1
Prince #1	4		Cape, tunic, tights & armour
Prince #2	5		As Prince #1
Prince #3	5		As Prince #1
Prince #4	6		As Prince #1
Ensemble Characters			Costume Suggestions
Beautiful Ones		As Beautiful One #1	
Not-So-Beautiful Ones		Scruffy, dirty sack-cloth tunics & tights	
Palace Workers		Aprons over tunics & tights	
Tall Trees		Green, leafy leotards/t-shirts & tights, with flowers on the back	

* A ‘line’ is defined as each time a character speaks - usually between one and seven actual lines of text each time.