

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre

Jackie and the Baked Bean Stalk

by Patricia Harris

EXTRACT

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JACKIE AND THE BAKED BEAN STALK.

A BRIEF OUTLINE:

BUTTERCUP AND BLUEBELL-TWO PANTOMIME FAIRIES-LEARN THAT A NUMBER OF FAMOUS PANTO CHARACTERS HAVE DISAPPEARED. FANCYING THEMSELVES AS DETECTIVES THEY DECIDE TO INVESTIGATE, THEY BEGIN THEIR INVESTIGATION IN ARCADIA, THE HOME OF THE LATE JACK, OF BEANSTALK FAME.

JACK'S DAUGHTER, JACKIE, STILL LIVES IN ARCADIA WHERE SHE MANAGES BRIGHT'S BAKED BEAN FACTORY, FOUNDED BY JACK WITH SOME OF THE TREASURE TAKEN FROM THE GIANT'S KINGDOM. THE FACTORY HAS HIT HARD TIMES HOWEVER, AND THE VILLAGERS ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING THEIR JOBS.

IN MEMORY OF JACK'S DEEDS, A FETE IS HELD EVERY YEAR AND A BEAN QUEEN IS CROWNED. THIS YEAR JACKIE IS QUEEN. WHEN THE KING OF ARCADIA CROWNS HER HE ALSO GIVES HER A MEMENTO LEFT IN HIS CARE BY JACK. THIS IS THE LID OF A BAKED BEAN TIN WITH A DRIED UP BEAN STUCK TO IT. A RIBBON IS THREADED THROUGH THE RING PULL SO THAT IT CAN BE WORN LIKE A MEDALLION.

JACKIE IS IN LOVE WITH THE KING'S SON, PRINCE CHARLIE. WHEN HE DISAPPEARS SHE THROWS THE MEDALLION INTO HER GARDEN IN DESPAIR AND ON THE FOLLOWING MORNING A GIANT BAKED BEAN STALK HAS APPEARED:

JACKIE CLIMBS THE BAKED BEAN STALK, FINDS THE PANTO CHARACTERS WORKING IN THE LATE GIANT'S CASTLE, AND RESCUES THEM, AFTER BEING CAPTURED HERSELF. SHE DOES THIS WITH THE HELP OF THE TWO FAIRIES, AND WIDOW GOODBODY, WHO HAS FOLLOWED HER UP THE BAKED BEAN STALK. WHILE IN THE GIANT'S CASTLE SHE MEETS TREVOR, THE LATE GIANT'S WALKING, TALKING AND SINGING CAT, AND THE MYSTERIOUS ABANAZER, WHO MAY OR MAY NOT BE A VILLAIN. JACKIE ALSO MEETS GRIMELDA, THE WICKED QUEEN FROM SNOW WHITE WHO IS DEFINITELY A VILLAIN.

AS IN ALL GOOD FAIRY TALES, AFTER HER ADVENTURES, JACKIE SAVES THE FACTORY, MARRIES THE PRINCE, AND EVERYONE LIVES HAPPILY EVER AFTER.

CHARACTERS: IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE:

BUTTERCUP: A middle-aged fairy, and a bit of a wag.

BLUEBELL: Buttercup's sister. Similar age.

CAMILLA GOODBODY: The Panto Dame.

PANKY GOODBODY: Camilla's daughter. Bit of a spoilt brat.
About twelve, but better played by an older child.

HANKY GOODBODY: Panky's male twin. As above, would be better
played by an older child.

KING GEORGE: Usual Panto King.

QUEEN MARY: Not born to Royalty and tends to overcompensate.

PRINCE CHARLIE: Son of above and Hero.

JACKIE BRIGHT: The heroine. Daughter of Jack of beanstalk
fame. Manages Bright's Baked Bean factory.

BARON BERTY Slightly doddery.
BALDERDASH: The King's Chamberlain. Engaged to Goodbody.

THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERS ONLY APPEAR IN ACT TWO:

CINDERELLA: [Panto characters have been magicked up
DICK WHITTINGTON: to late giant's castle to work as servants]

ALADDIN:

RED RIDING HOOD:

GRIMELDA: The wicked queen from Snow White and villain
of the panto. Good looking, but evil.

QUEEN OF HEARTS:

ABANAZER: A youngish wizard. 35-ish. Makes himself look older.

TREVOR: The late giant's cat. No ordinary Cat. He wears
yellow dungarees, walks upright, and has secretly
learned to speak.

TWO SOLDIERS WHO HAVE A COUPLE OF LINES EACH AND VILLAGERS WHO
DOUBLE AS GHOSTS IN ONE SCENE: COULD ALSO DOUBLE AS PANTO CHARACTERS:

ACT ONE:

PROLOGUE: BUTTERCUP & BLUEBELL.

SCENE ONE: THE VILLAGE GREEN. ARCADIA.
THE BEAN QUEEN IS CROWNED.

SCENE TWO: * BUTTERCUP AND BLUEBELL PRACTICE
FOR THE KING'S TALENT SHOW.

SCENE THREE: THE HAUNTED WOOD.

SCENE FOUR: * WIDOW GOODBODY'S KITCHEN.

SCENE FIVE: THE PATH FROM THE FACTORY, AND
JACKIE'S COTTAGE. THE FOLLOWING DAY.

SCENE SIX: THE SAME: NEXT MORNING.

ACT TWO:

SCENE ONE: THE KITCHEN IN THE LATE GIANT'S
CASTLE: IN THE LAND ABOVE.

SCENE TWO: OUTSIDE THE GIANT'S CASTLE.

SCENE THREE: ABANAZER'S INNER SANCTUM.

SCENE FOUR: * THE ROAD FROM THE CASTLE.

SCENE FIVE: AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BAKED BEAN
STALK.

SCENE SIX: * THE ROAD TO THE VILLAGE.

SCENE SEVEN: THE FACTORY CANTEEN ON THE NIGHT OF
THE BALL.

**** Short scenes to allow time for larger scene changes.

JACKIE AND THE BAKED BEAN STALK.

SUGGESTED
SONG LIST:

[OR DIRECTOR'S CHOICE:]

ACT ONE:

WHEN THE PARADE PASSES BY:

CHORUS:

IT'S A MOST UNUSUAL DAY:

JACKIE:

I'D DO ANYTHING: (Some words altered)

CHARLIE/JACKIE & CHORUS:

WHERE IS LOVE?

JACKIE:

ACT TWO:

WHEN I RULE THE WORLD: (Altered words) ABANAZER:

BIG CATS IN HATS: (Tune: Rain in Spain) TREVOR & PANTO CHARACTERS:

THESE ARE A FEW OF MY FAVOURITE THINGS: (Altered words) PANTO CHARACTERS:

PUTTING ON THE RITZ:

TREVOR:

TOGETHER: (Finale song)

ALL:

ACT TWO: SCENE ONE:

SONG FOR WIZARD: WHEN I RULE THE WORLD: WORDS ALTERED.

When I rule the world,
No more pantos, I think pantomime's suck.
No more fairies 'cause all fairies are yuk,
And bad luck.
That's when I rule the world.

When I rule the world,
All the pantolands will turn into bogs.
All Prince Charmings will be turned into frogs,
Under logs.
That's when I rule the world.

Grown-ups,
Will have to work all the time,
And won't be paid any wages.
Children,
Will never have any fun,
And if they dare laugh they'll catch rabies.

When I rule the world,
This old castle will be shiney and bright.
You'll be working here from morning till night,
What a wonderful sight.
When I rule the world.

ACT TWO: SCENE ONE:

SONG FOR TREVOR AND COMPANY:

"BIG CATS IN HATS" TO TUNE OF THE RAIN IN SPAIN.

TREVOR: Big cats in hats sleep mainly on the meeat.
Big cats in hats sleep mainly on the meeat.

ALADDIN: And what do big cats wear?

TREVOR: Dick's hat. Dick's hat.

HEARTS: And where do big cats sleep?

TREVOR: On meeats. On meeats.

ALL: Big cats in hats sleep mainly on the meeats.
Big cats in hats sleep mainly on the meeats.
Olé.

SONG FOR PANTO CHARACTERS:

SCENE FOUR: ACT TWO:

THESE ARE A FEW OF OUR FAVOURITE THINGS:

RED: A walk in the forest with no wolf to scare me.

DICK: A long trek to London, I'll go if you dare me.

CINDERS: A Prince with my slipper, we'll wed in the spring.

ALL: These are a few of our favourite things.

ALADDIN: Rugs that can fly, and a lamp that is magic.

RED: Scary adventures, but none that are tragic.

CINDERS: Balls at the palace, the joy that they bring.

ALL: These are a few of our favourite things.

ALLADIN: Wizards and Princes and wishes and fairies.

DICK: Queens with lost brothers who come from the dairy.

RED/CIND: Being so happy you just want to sing.

ALL: These are a few of our favourite things.

ALL: When the wolf howls,

When the cold stings,

When we're feeling sad.

We simply remember our favourite things,

And then we don't feel so bad.

SONG FOR JACKIE AND CHARLIE: ACT ONE: SCENE THREE:

I'LL DO ANYTHING:

AS USUAL EXCEPT:-

JACKIE: Would you slay a giant?

CHARLIE: Anything.

JACKIE: Every wish you'll grant?

CHARLIE: Anything.

JACKIE: Work the baked bean plant?

CHARLIE: Anything.

JACKIE: Even kiss my aunt?

CHARLIE: And hug her tight. I'd do anything etc...

PROLOGUE: IN FRONT OF CURTAIN:

TWO NOT SO YOUNG PANTOMIME FAIRIES ENTER. BUTTERCUP AND BLUEBELL. THEIR FAIRY COSTUMES COMPLEMENT THEIR NAMES. BUTTERCUP IS A BIT OF A WAG. BLUEBELL TRIES TO BE VERY PROPER BUT CAN'T ALWAYS MANAGE IT.

BLUEBELL: (ADDRESSING AUDIENCE)
We are the fairies of pantomime,
come to take you away to a far of time.
With our wands and a wave of our dainty hand,
we shall carry you off to Pantoland.
Before the time of cars and trains...

BUTTERCUP: Political correctness, and other pains...

BLUEBELL: (GIVES HER A SHUT UP LOOK)
Where everything is fresh and clean,
and evil and meanness is never seen...

BUTTERCUP: Hold on, Bluebell, that's not quite true.
When I was in Pantoland last week I was
stopped by a very nasty type. Tall dark
and gruesome.

BLUEBELL: (HORRIFIED) Oh Buttercup! What did he do?

BUTTERCUP: He threatened to search me all over and
take all my money.

BLUEBELL: Oh Buttercup! What did you do?

BUTTERCUP: I told him I didn't have any money, but if
he'd like to search me anyway I'd write him
a cheque.

BLUEBELL: I might have known you weren't being serious.

BUTTERCUP: But I was. Pantoland is in all sorts of trouble.

BLUEBELL: Like what?

BUTTERCUP: Like pantomime characters disappearing all over the place. (STARTS COUNTING ON HER FINGERS) Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Aladdin, Dick Whittington...

BLUEBELL: You don't say so?

BUTTERCUP: I do say so. When Dick disappeared his cat shot straight up a telegraph pole and he hasn't been seen since.

BLUEBELL: This is terrible. Any others?

BUTTERCUP: The wicked queen from Snow White has gone, but she's no loss.

BLUEBELL: Grimelda? Who would want her?

BUTTERCUP: I certainly wouldn't, but she's gone all the same.

BLUEBELL: And Aladdin you say?

BUTTERCUP: (NODS) While he was out buying fresh vegies for the family wok.

BLUEBELL: How dreadful. What did his poor wife do?

BUTTERCUP: She had to open a tin of peas.