



December 2022

RAPUNZEL

Ben Crocker

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PRESS REACTION

“This is a show that adults can enjoy as much as children. Intelligent, warm and very, very funny.” *Banbury Guardian, Rapunzel*

“A truly thrilling pantomime.” *The Stage, Aladdin (Arabian Version)*

“A perfect, proper panto.” *The Times, Beauty & the Beast*

“This show bounds along and by the end the young crowd – like Cinderella, have had a ball.” *The Guardian, Cinderella*

“Absolutely delightful panto, put together with wit and verve by Ben Crocker” *The Daily Telegraph, Dick Whittington & His Cat*

“A glance around at the children – their faces truly shining, eyes wide and mouths open – illustrates the delight that pantomime still provides.” *The Times, Dick Whittington & His Cat*

“This is a show to be enjoyed by all ages, with enough hearty laughs to lighten anyone’s winter evenings.” *Express and Echo, Aladdin*

“All the ingredients for a jolly good panto romp are chucked into the mix... a rollicking good laugh from start to finish had the adults wiping tears of laughter from their eyes.” *The Stage, Sleeping Beauty*

“What really sets this pantomime apart is the quality of Ben Crocker’s script... Make no mistake, any theatre in the land would be proud to stage this top quality show.” *Oxford Times, Beauty & the Beast*

“Bristling with lots of imaginative ideas, this is a bright, upbeat pantomime with a huge feel-good factor. Ben Crocker takes a new look at the old fairy tale and comes up with a winner. It’s good, traditional family fun with lots of laughs and a fast pace.” *Western Morning News, Cinderella*

Rapunzel

CHARACTERS

RAPUNZEL	Our fiesty heroine
JUAN FORTHEMONEY	Principal Boy. A rakish, charming chancer
NANNY TROLLOP	Dame and Royal Nanny
KING OF CHISWICKIA	Also plays King of MUDDLESEX
QUEEN OF CHISWICKIA	Also plays Queen of MUDDLESEX
GOTHEL	a witch
WAYLON	a weasel. Belongs to Gothel.
MAX	Hilda's son
JOHN DEERE	Landlord
JANEY DEERE	Landlady
JOBS	Customs Officer
WORTH	Customs Officer
KING of MUDDLESEX	
QUEEN of MUDDLESEX	
CHORUS	Citizens, Knights, Sailors, etc.
A Note on Doubling	The show allows for a lot of flexibility in cast size. There are roles for 12 actors, but this can easily be reduced to 7 or somewhere in between. Waylon and Max can be doubled – and of course the King and Queen of Chiswickia can also play John and Janey Deere and Jobs and Worth. Both pairs of Kings and Queens, however, should always be played by the same actors.
Songs	Songs are left to the choice of the individual producer.

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PROLOGUE: A Tower with a Window.

Blackout. MUSIC. Out of the darkness we hear RAPUNZEL singing. Her song yearns for freedom. Slow fade up to reveal RAPUNZEL, singing within the window of her tower.

Song: *Rescue Me*

Rescue me
Oh take me in your arms
Rescue me
I want your tender charms
'Coz I'm lonely and I'm blue
I need you and your love too

Come on and rescue me
Come on baby and rescue me
Come on baby and rescue me
'Coz I need you, by my side
Can't you see that I'm lonely, rescue me

JUAN watches separately. Maybe on the steps leading up to the stage or somewhere in the auditorium. He is not part of the onstage action.

RAPUNZEL **(abruptly at end of song)** Another beautiful morning and absolutely nothing to do! Locked down again – and again and again and again!

Disappears. Light intensifies on JUAN

JUAN Wow... isn't that the loveliest song you ever heard from the most gorgeous girl you ever saw...? But I'm forgetting myself and getting side-tracked - I'm supposed to be on a quest to find the lost fairy tale Princess of Chiswickia. She was stolen away eighteen years ago as a baby - and if I find her, I win half the King of Chiswickia's kingdom – and that would be way beyond amazing - as long as it's not the half with the Hogarthian roundabout...! But wow, that girl... By the way, my name is Juan – Juan Forthemoney - and the missing Princess, her name is Rapunzel.

GOTHEL **(off)** Rapunzel, Rapunzel – let down your hair!

JUAN NO????! I mean, yes! YES! Did someone just say Rapunzel!?

GOTHEL **(entering)** Mother's home!

RAPUNZEL **(appearing in window)** I'm here, Mother! **(Starts to unfurl her hair out of the window)**

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JUAN

Rapunzel?! This is just unreal! I mean, who else in the known world is called Rapunzel - apart from Rapunzel? That girl is the princess! I mean, this is serious, folks – so, maybe we need to go back eighteen years to the beginning and catch up on a few things. And hey, watch out for me, I'm really cute! (**Looks back at GOTHEL and RAPUNZEL**) Wow! Look at that! The old bird's gonna climb up her hair! I'll see you all again in eighteen years!

BLACKOUT

Piano intro to the opening number

SCENE 1. The Town Square in Muddlesex

CHORUS, on stage as the CITIZENS OF MUDDLESEX.

Opening Number: Waterloo

My, my - at Waterloo, Napoleon did surrender
Oh, yeah - and I have met my destiny in quite a similar way

The history book on the shelf
Is always repeating itself

Waterloo, I was defeated, you won the war
Waterloo, promise to love you forevermore
Waterloo, couldn't escape if I wanted to
Waterloo, knowing my fate is to be with you
Woah, woah, woah, woah, Waterloo
Finally facing my Waterloo

My, my - I tried to hold you back, but you were stronger
Oh, yeah - and now it seems my only chance is giving up the fight

And how could I ever refuse?
I feel like I win when I lose

Waterloo, I was defeated, you won the war
Waterloo, promise to love you forevermore
Waterloo, couldn't escape if I wanted to
Waterloo, knowing my fate is to be with you
Woah, woah, woah, woah, Waterloo
Finally facing my Waterloo
Woah, woah, woah, woah, Waterloo
Finally facing my Waterloo

At the end we hear a cheesy sounding public service announcement

“Ladies and Gentlemen of Chiswickia, you have just ten minutes till the arrival of your King and Queen...!”

There is general excitement, announcement continues

“Yes, it's the day we've been waiting for, the day when their Royal Majesties will reveal the name of Chiswickia's beautiful baby princess – and not only that, good people – the Queen will declare the winner of the Grove on the Green Garden Festival. The Great Green Garden Festival of Chiswickia - The Land of Cheese and Onions and Lettuce!”

MUSIC. ALL disperse excitedly. The MUSIC turns ominous as GOTHEL enters

GOTHEL Yes, run along, run along... What a bunch of losers! **(To AUDIENCE)** And that goes for you too! I'm sure you're all a bunch of losers too! Well, what did you expect? Fun and games? A riot of song and dance? Oh, no! Not whilst I, the witch Gothel, still have breath in my body... Of course, you've all come to see Rapunzel. But why not the magical witch, Gothel? Eh? I deserve it! I just want some recognition, some respect, some tiny scintilla of - love! There – I've said it! I'm special – I'm not just the local witch in this dump! Muddlesex! The Land of Cheese and Onions and Lettuce? Huh! It used to be the land of just cheese and onions! That is, until MY lettuce was stolen. My lettuce! My green fingered, mystical, magical triumph – all my care, all my love, all my everything, ripped from its special growing place by a nasty, thieving little boy. And guess what? That little boy is now a Daddy – which means I can take my revenge. I shall steal HIS love!

Laughs wickedly. FX. Her laugh is echoed by a very high pitched wicked laugh. GOTHEL pulls a fluffy little weasel from her bag

This is Waylon, my wicked weasel. **(FX. Weasel laughs wickedly)**
Yes, alright, Waylon, we get the message. **(Waylon laughs again)** I said, alright!

GOTHEL wallops Waylon. Light and sound effect. Full size WAYLON is revealed, laughing wickedly and shadow boxing with himself

WAYLON Put 'em up! Put 'em up! I'll take anyone – anyone at all! Put 'em up!

GOTHEL Oh, no. He's gone pop! Waylon, that's enough!

WAYLON **(ignoring her)** Any weasel, any stoat – even a badger, I'll take a badger, ten badgers – bring on a badger! **(Laughs wickedly, fighting imaginary opponents)**

GOTHEL Waylon, shut up!

WAYLON **(still sparring)** I'm a Guardian of the Galaxy!

GOTHEL No, you're not a Guardian of the Galaxy. Now, back in the bag!

WAYLON But I'm a fighter! I'm lethal, I don't know defeat! **(Laughs wickedly and continues sparring)**

GOTHEL grabs WAYLON's tail

WAYLON **(squealing)** Ow!

GOTHEL Back - in - the bag!

WAYLON **(suddenly capitulating)** Ok.

Light and sound effect. WAYLON has disappeared

GOTHEL **(patting bag)** That's better. I should have got a rabbit.

We hear HILDA singing off

Urgh... It's Nanny Trollop, with the Royal Baby – her pride and joy, but not for long...! Anyway, I'll let you enjoy her last moments of happiness ON THIS EARTH! I'll see you all later! **(Exits)**

MUSIC. Nanny Trollop (HILDA) enters, pushing a large, old fashioned pram, which contains the baby and a giant marrow

HILDA Hello, Everybody! Here I am...! That's it, give me a wave! How lovely to see you all! Welcome to dear old Chiswickia – a little bit of flightpath heaven miles from Actonia!. And if that sounds a bit Grimm, think two M's. **(A beat)** Maybe that was setting the bar a bit high... Anyway, allow me to introduce myself! I am Nanny Trollop, the Royal Nanny, but you can call me Hilda. And here's my darling little baby Princess! **(Taking her out of pram)** Look at that pretty little nose – goo goo goo goo wiggly spiggly woo...! She understands every word I say! And she's so well behaved – almost never cries. She's as good as gold – in fact, when she does cry, she cries tears of gold! I ask you, who but a fairy tale princess would do that? Golden tears to match her golden hair! You're a magic baby, aren't you?! **(Putting Baby back in pram)** Yes, you are! And today, we're going to tell the whole world your name... Yes, it's the best kept secret in Chiswickia! **(To Audience)** I bet you can't guess what it is...?! No, don't jump the gun... I was going to give you a clue. It begins with an R! What was that? Rap -? No...! No - you won't force it out of me – my lips are sealed... Even if you hung me up by my entrails, cut out my tongue and left me for the wolves of the forest to devour, I would not tell you that her name is Rapunz– whoops, I nearly went and told you, didn't I?! I'd have had one of my turns if I'd done that – and you don't want to see one of my turns. I've been nervy ever since I actually did throw my own baby out with the bathwater. Took ages to get him back. But names are so important, aren't they? Otherwise, we wouldn't know what to call each other! You, sir – what's your name? Malcolm? What a coincidence – I looked after a little boy called Malcolm once! Very difficult to get him potty trained. You're not like that, are you, Malcolm...? That's good, but steady as you go, you're all of a sugar rush, aren't you, Malcolm? And you, Madam, what's your name...? Deborah?! Now, Deborah I like... Dignified, purposeful, yet somehow a little bit - frisky. Yes... You're a saucebox, aren't you, Deborah...?! Only joking – just go careful on the protein. But then I'm a fine one to

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talk - I mean, what about the name Brunnhilde? If only I'd been a Belinda, or a Beatrice, or a bonnie, bouncing Buttercup - I could've, would've, should've been so much more... Sexier!

Song: ***Do Ya Think I'm Sexy***

If you want my body and you think I'm sexy
Come on, sugar, let me know
If you really need me, just reach out and touch me
Come on, honey, tell me so

He's acting shy, looking for an answer
Come on honey, let's spend the night together
Now hold on a minute before we go much further
Give me a dime so I can phone my mother
They catch a cab to his high rise apartment
At last he can tell her exactly what his heart meant

If you want my body and you think I'm sexy
Come on honey, tell me so
If you really need me, just reach out and touch me
Come on sugar, let me know

His heart's beating like a drum
'Cause at last he's got this girl home
Relax baby, now we're all alone

If you want my body and you think I'm sexy
Come on honey, tell me so
If you really need me, just reach out and touch me
Come on sugar, let me know

At the end of the number child MAX runs on. He is dressed as a cub

Oh, look! It's my own little boy, Max! And in his cubs' uniform and everything! What is it Max?

MAX whispers in her ear

You got your Home Safety badge...? Ladies and gentlemen – he got his Home Safety badge!

HILDA leads applause. MAX whispers in her ear again

And the King and Queen are arriving any minute? Yes, I know they're arriving any minute... Hang on - what do you mean they're arriving any minute?! I'm not ready! The baby needs changing and I was going to do my hair. It looks, dreadful, Max! It looks dreadful! What

am I going to do? This is the biggest day in Rapunzel's life – oh, my goodness, I've told everybody her name now! I've let the cat out of the bag and almost committed treason! Oh, dear, this is more than a muddle – I'm going to have one of my turns. I am Max...! I'm going... I'm going...!

MAX You need to chill out Mum!

HILDA You're right, Max. Chill out! That's what I need to do. chill out...

Does absurd deep breathing. Big breaths, little pants, quivers all over etc

There... I'm calm... Nothing can ruffle me. I'm calm. **(Suddenly agitated)** But what if it happens again?! What if I get all agitated and you're not there to remind me to chill out?

MAX **(pointing to Audience)** Why don't you ask them?

HILDA What a brilliant idea! Max, you are always so practical! **(to Audience)** If I get a bit agitated, will you remind me to chill out and stay calm...? You will...? Brilliant! Ok, so, if I start to go – and I'll tell you when I'm going, in fact I'll say – "I'm going! I'm going...!" – then, you all shout "Unwind your behind!" Got it...? Right. Good. Shall we give it a go...? Great. Now, we just need to pretend that everything's fine – and then something worries me, like –

MAX You've got a spot on the end of your nose.

HILDA Have I??? Have I got a spot on the end of my nose??? Aaah! I've got a spot on the end of my nose! I'm going... I'm going....

(Audience shout) Hang on a second. I don't think you quite understand. That sounded like three mice in a library. I need you to shout. Really shout. Shall we try it again...? Ok – I'm going...! I'm going...

(Audience shout) Not bad. But I might be so upset that you really need to cut through. Let's give it one more go. Ok, Max, make it real. Does my bum look big in this outfit?

MAX Yes.

HILDA What? It does? Really big?

MAX Yes.

HILDA NO! I've got a big bum! I'm going...! I'm going...!

(Audience shout. HILDA breaths deeply) Thank you! Thank you!
That was wonderful! I am serene...

We hear a public service announcement... “One, minute, please, Ladies and Gentlemen. You have one minute until the arrival of your King and Queen, King Bernard and Queen Bunty!”

Aaah! They're coming, Max and I'm not ready! I've got a spot on the end of my nose, a big bum and I've almost committed treason! It's all too much! I'm going...! I'm going...!

(Audience shout. HILDA breaths deeply) Thank you! Thank you! I am calm...

Fanfare. CITIZENS assemble excitedly. They all carry some sort of fruit or vegetable. MUSIC. The KING and QUEEN enter behind a Royal Page, who carries a tasselled cushion with a lettuce on it. The KING has a luxuriant moustache. ALL bow and curtsy. HILDA hands the baby to the QUEEN

- KING Loyal subjects of Chiswickia, once in a hundred years our kingdom produces a true fairy tale princess –
- QUEEN A princess, who cries golden tears, symbolising our wealth and prosperity for the next one hundred years.
- KING You see before you today just such a fairy tale princess, who today we name in celebration of our kingdom!
- QUEEN And in particular, after the delicious lettuce, which makes Chiswickia so special –
- KING The lettuce we love and the lettuce we call –
- BOTH Rapunzel!
- HILDA Three cheers for the Princess Rapunzel! **(Leads three cheers)**
- QUEEN And now it is my most pleasant duty to judge the entries to our Grove on the Green Garden Festival.

EVERYONE holds up their entry hopefully

And as always, I applaud you for the wonders you achieve through the greenness of your fingers... From Nanny Trollop's giant marrow, Rosemary's spectacular, easy-stretch rhubarb – **(stretches rhubarb)** through to Mr Forthemoney's inflatable radish **(blows up radish)** – all highly commended. But this year, as indeed every year, the first prize, the green rosette, goes to - the King's Lettuce!

ALL drop their entry and the radish goes fizzing off. They politely applaud

Clap of thunder. Ominous MUSIC. GOTHEL enters clapping ironically

GOTHEL Well done, well done, well done! What a spectacular achievement!

HILDA It's the witch, Gothe!

GOTHEL **(taking lettuce from cushion)** And what fine lettuce! **(Takes a bite and chews appreciatively)** Mmmm! **(Spits it out contemptuously and points viciously at KING)** You stole from me!

QUEEN But the King grew that lettuce himself!

KING It is the finest example of the greens our kingdom is now famous for!

GOTHEL Yes, it is! The lettuce that twenty-five years ago was unknown - before a young Prince who is now a King stole it from the special growing place in my garden!

QUEEN Is this true, Bernard?

GOTHEL Do you deny it?!

KING But – I – I was just a boy!

GOTHEL You stole what was most precious to me – so now, I'll steal what is most precious to you!

GOTHEL grabs the baby from the QUEEN. ALL cry out "No!". The baby cries. MUSIC

What's that, little one? Tears? Tears of gold...! Oh, my! You really are a magical little princess! I shall be loved by someone so, so special – because I deserve to be special too! **(To KING)** And this time, not you, nor the crown on your head, or anything else is going to take it away from me! **(Recovering composure)** So, Rapunzel, say "Bye bye!" **(Moves the baby's arm)** Because we're going somewhere nobody will ever find us! **(To KING and QUEEN)** And there I'll raise her as my own – just for me! And all the love that you would have given to her, I will give to her – and all the love that she would have given to you, she will give to me! I will steal your LOVE!

PYRO. BLACKOUT. We hear GOTHEL'S wicked laughter. LIGHTS UP. GOTHEL and the baby have gone

HILDA She's gone!

QUEEN No!

KING Prepare the King's horse!

Sound effect. We hear a mettlesome whinny off

HILDA To think of her with that horrible witch! I can't bear it...! It's too much!
I'm going...! I'm going...!

Audience shout. HILDA breaths deep

QUEEN (to KING) Don't just stand there, watching her do yoga! Do something!

KING Yes, dear! Of course. I call for Sir Basildon Braveheart. The Bravest of the Brave!

Bearded and armoured, a puny knight enters

SIR B I am here, my Liege!

KING Sir Basildon, you will take my horse and circumvent the globe if necessary, facing every danger known to man until you find the Princess and return with her!

SIR B I will, my Liege! (Exits)

KING There. It is done.

We hear another mettlesome whinny and the clattering of hooves as SIR BASILDON crosses the stage riding a scooter

QUEEN Are you sure this is enough?!

HILDA I don't think it's enough – I shall seek her too! I can't bear the idea that anyone could harm even one golden hair on her darling little head!

KING You're right. Let the whole kingdom seek her. This I swear - whoever finds and returns Princess Rapunzel shall receive half our kingdom. However long it takes!

Song: *Blue Suede Shoes*

Well, it's one for the money two for the show
Three to get ready now go, cat, go

But don't you step on my blue suede shoes
Well you can do anything but lay off of my blue suede shoes

Well, you can knock me down

Rapunzel

Step in my face
Slander my name all over the place
Do anything that you want to do
But uh-uh honey, lay off of my shoes

Don't you step on my blue suede shoes
You can do anything but lay off of my blue suede shoes

You can burn my house, steal my car
Drink my liquor from an old fruit-jar
Do anything that you wanna do
But uh-uh honey, lay off of my shoes

Don't you step on my blue suede shoes
You can do anything but lay off of my blue suede shoes

(Dance Break)

Well, it's one for the money, two for the show
Three to get ready now go, cat, go

But don't you step on my blue suede shoes
Well you can do anything but lay off of my blue suede shoes
Well you can do anything but lay off of my blue suede shoes

Curtains

BLACKOUT

SCENE 2: Back at the Tower. Eighteen Years Later**JUAN discovered**

JUAN Hi Folks! Here we all are back again eighteen years later and the search is still on. The old bird's just gone in the window. Did you see my dad? Got the family looks eh? And soon I'm gonna be rich too! That second-hand superyacht could be mine! I just hope Rapunzel is pleased to see me. Eighteen years cooped up in there – and then yours truly climbs in through the window! I can't wait to see her face! Then it's back to Chiswickia to claim my reward! And Chiswickia's a long way, so there'll be plenty of chances to get to know her better – and I'm good at getting to know girls better... Did you see me on Love Island? But, as always, I've got to remember that I'm a professional. Eighteen years they've been trying to find her – and then wham! Juan Forthemoney comes up with the goods! I can almost smell the cash! So, all I need to do is climb up when the old bird's gone, and then – Princess Rapunzel, I am going to make your day! I better go get me some crampons or something! **(Exits)**

HILDA enters excitedly. She has a big pair of binoculars

HILDA This is it, Max! This is it! We've found Rapunzel! Eighteen years searching and we've finally found her! The binoculars never lie! **(Looks through binoculars at Audience and starts back)** Ah! Oh it's you lot again! **(Shouting off)** Maxwell, will you hurry up!

ADULT MAX enters dressed as a Scout

(To Audience) You remember Max, don't you? Of course, he's grown up a bit in the last eighteen years... Got all his badges and everything. Oooh, I'm famished!

MAX **(producing sandwich)** Cheese and pickle sandwich?

HILDA You see? Always prepared.

MAX Chef Activity Badge.

HILDA **(appreciatively)** Mmmm. **(Takes bite)** Anyway, back to business. **(Pointing at tower)** She's in there, Max. I know she is!

MAX How do you know it's her? You haven't seen her for eighteen years.

HILDA Are you saying I wouldn't recognise my own little baby!? She's got eighteen years' worth of hair on her head! Isn't it obvious?!

MAX What?

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- HILDA No one's cut her hair – and that's how the old witch gets in and out! She's imprisoned her in there and climbs up her hair! It's despicable, Max! Completely despicable! It's horrible! It makes me want to chew my own arm off!
- MAX Alright, Mum, calm down! It's maybe not as bad as it sounds.
- HILDA What do you mean?
- MAX Say Gothel weighs a hundred and forty pounds.
- HILDA **(bewildered)** What...?
- MAX And say there are ten thousand hairs on Rapunzel's head – I mean, there are probably more, but say ten thousand...
- HILDA OK...?
- MAX That's a loading of less than a quarter of an ounce per hair.
- HILDA Where did you learn that?
- MAX Quantifiable Mechanics badge. You see, it's not so bad.
- HILDA Yes, it is! It's like a fairy tale gone wrong! When I think of my poor little baby princess... It's no good, Max – I'm going to have one of my turns –
- MAX No, Mum –
- HILDA Yes, Max - I'm going...! I'm going...!
- (Audience shout. HILDA breaths deep)** Thank you, thank you, thank you! But please shout quietly! We need to be discrete. How are we going to get in, Max?
- MAX Why don't you pretend to be Gothel?
- HILDA Brilliant, Maxwell! That's what I love about you. Clear thinking, solution focused... What shall I say?
- MAX How about – Rapunzel, Rapunzel let down your hair!
- HILDA Maxwell, that is genius! I'll do it now!
- MAX Hold on, hold on. Isn't Gothel in there at the moment?
- HILDA You're absolutely right. We'll come back when she's gone. Come on, Max. **(To Audience)** We'll see you all later!

BLACKOUT

SCENE 3: Inside the Tower

Curtain open

RAPUNZEL and GOTHEL revealed. Somewhere there is a picture of GOTHEL titled 'MUMMY', together with several framed pictures of golden tears through to age 17...

- GOTHEL **(taking articles from her bag)** There – you see. I got you some pretty ribbons, for your pretty hair.
- RAPUNZEL Thank you, Mother.
- GOTHEL Long, pretty ribbons, a pork pie for your supper –
- RAPUNZEL **(disappointed)** Oh...
- GOTHEL Your favourite! And this. **(Hands over a book)**
- RAPUNZEL Princess Stories for Pretty Princesses!?
- GOTHEL We don't want you getting bored, Rapunzel.
- RAPUNZEL But I am bored.
- GOTHEL Bored?
- RAPUNZEL If I could just have a tiny little walk outside -
- GOTHEL But it's dangerous out there!
- RAPUNZEL No, it isn't!
- GOTHEL How would you know, Miss Clever Clogs? I've always kept you safe in here!
- RAPUNZEL Exactly! I just want to see what it's like outside!
- GOTHEL Rapunzel, NO! I don't want to talk about it!
- RAPUNZEL But if I could just meet – well, people!
- GOTHEL But Mummy wants to protect her little girl.
- RAPUNZEL But I've grown up and all I've got is you and Waylon!
- GOTHEL A weasel makes a lovely pet! **(Wheedling)** Rapunzel – come to Mummy....
- RAPUNZEL No, I don't want to come to Mummy -

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- GOTHEL Whatever happened to my little girl?!
- RAPUNZEL I grew up! Please understand, Mother.
- GOTHEL Why do you upset me like this?
- RAPUNZEL I just want to see beyond this window. Explore what's out there, meet people, make friends – and maybe even fall in love!
- GOTHEL LOVE??! I'll tell you about love! I love you. Isn't that enough love for you? Why would you want to love people you haven't even met yet?! I love you and you love ME!
- RAPUNZEL Yes, I know that –
- GOTHEL I'm your Mummy. I've loved you ever since the day you were - mine! You're a precious, special girl who can cry tears of gold for her Mummy. No one else in the world can do that! You make me a special Mummy! Look on the wall! Golden tears aged five, six, seven, eight, nine – all the way up to seventeen. Why no golden tears aged eighteen?!
- RAPUNZEL. I don't know – I grew up! They won't come and I don't want to cry them ever again!
- GOTHEL Waylon!
- WAYLON **(bounds on enthusiastically)** Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!
- GOTHEL She says she won't cry golden tears – not even for her Mother!
- WAYLON Rapunzel won't cry? Bad Rapunzel! Naughty Rapunzel! Rapunzel needs a bite!
- RAPUNZEL If he bites me, I'll pull his ears off!
- GOTHEL Waylon, come here! I've told you before. We don't bite Rapunzel! **(Grabs his tail)**
- WAYLON Ow!
- GOTHEL Say 'Sorry, Rapunzel'. **(Twists his tail)**
- WAYLON Ow - ooooh....! that's bullying and harassment, that is! **(GOTHEL twists some more)** Ooooh...! Sorry Rapunzel!
- GOTHEL Good. Now, show a bit of sense. **(Aside to WAYLON)** There are other ways to make Rapunzel cry. Fetch me "The Princess Who Died of a Broken Heart." **(To RAPUNZEL)** We're going to have a story. So, sit down because Mummy's going to read.

WAYLON hands the book to GOTHEL and joins RAPUNZEL, who sits stony faced

Once upon a time, there was a beautiful princess, with lovely long blond hair – just like Rapunzel!

RAPUNZEL This is a stupid story!

WAYLON No, it isn't!

If audience reacts, just look out quizzically otherwise crack on

GOTHEL Alright Waylon, we'll skip to the last bit to keep Miss High and Mighty happy.... **(Turns a few pages and recommences reading)** After the wicked governess had broken all the poor princess's toys –

WAYLON And her wicked step-brother had slashed up all her clothes!

GOTHEL That's right, Waylon – and her wicked step-father had stolen all her pocket money - the beautiful princess turned sobbing – “sobbing”, Rapunzel - to her Mummy...

WAYLON Because a Mummy is the most special person in the whole world...!

GOTHEL Right again, Waylon! Her Mummy, who loved her and loved her and loved her...

WAYLON **(starting to sob)** A Mother's love is just a beautiful thing!

RAPUNZEL scowls

GOTHEL That's right. Waylon. Look – Rapunzel. Waylon's already crying!

WAYLON **(wailing)** I am, I am!

GOTHEL Why can't you cry like Waylon?

RAPUNZEL Because it's a stupid story!

GOTHEL No, it isn't you heartless little minx! Now, just listen – **(Reads)** the Princess said, “Mummy, you know how much I love you.” Her Mummy looked at her with her beautiful, kind, loving eyes and said “Yes, darling, I do – and I love you more than all the coffee shops on the High Road!”

WAYLON And the Princess said, “I love you more than all the fishes in the sea, and all the stars in the sky!”

GOTHEL Yes, Waylon, she did - because she really, really loved her Mummy! **(Viciously)** Like little girls are supposed to! **(Resumes reading)** And then... **(Starts to sob)** Her Mummy fell over!

Rapunzel

WAYLON **(wailing)** I hate this bit – it's so sad! She actually dies!

GOTHEL Her Mummy who she owed everything to and who was the joy and light of her life, fell over and died...!

GOTHEL and WAYLON sob uncontrollably

RAPUNZEL Have you finished yet?

WAYLON Of course, she hasn't finished! The Princess isn't dead yet – she dies of a broken heart! **(Sobs)** It may be friction, but it's so true!

RAPUNZEL Friction? What's friction got to do with it?

GOTHEL Will you just listen to the story!

RAPUNZEL I know the story! It's a stupid story!

WAYLON **(appalled)** How can you say that?! I'm going to give you a bite and a scratch!

GOTHEL **(clouting him)** That's enough, Waylon! **(Changing tack)** Come to Mummy, Rapunzel. It's not babyish to want to cry – and you know how Mummy always feels better when you've had a good cry!

RAPUNZEL No, I won't cry! And I'm never going to cry ever again!

GOTHEL Don't you tell me what you will and won't do, Little Miss Nose in the Air! If you're going to be like that, you can spend the day on your own! Come on, Waylon, we're going. Put your hair out the window, Rapunzel.

GOTHEL climbs on the window sill, as does WAYLON

You're in the way, Waylon. Get in the bag.

WAYLON But I don't want to get in the bag.

GOTHEL I said, get in the bag!

WAYLON I'm a big weasel now!

GOTHEL Oh, suit yourself.

GOTHEL gives WAYLON a shove. He screams as he falls out of the window. There is a crash. GOTHEL laughs wickedly

WAYLON **(crying off)** It's not funny!

GOTHEL Oh, belt up! **(Starts to climb down)** We'll see how you feel when I get back. But, remember this, Little Miss Contrary; if Mummy wants

you to cry her just a few teeny weeny golden tears to put on the wall, don't disappoint her. Otherwise, you'll find yourself crying all night long and half the day too! (**Disappears**)

RAPUNZEL (**shouting after her**) I won't cry ever again! Do you hear me? Even if you never let me out of here, I will never cry again! Oh, it's so unfair! And I do want to be let out of here... Every day I see wonders from my window and my head is so full of stuff I don't know. Mother says that if you catch a falling star you can make a wish – but they all seem to fall so far away from me. How brilliant it would be to catch one and make a magic wish! I think I would wish to go to the sea and find out where the sun rises. It would be so lovely to see the sea. And I need to meet people – I know I need to meet people. Maybe I need to catch two stars. I just need to be free...

Song: *Rescue Me (reprise)*

Rescue me
Oh take me in your arms
Rescue me
I want your tender charms
'Coz I'm lonely and I'm blue
I need you and your love too

Come on and rescue me
Come on baby and rescue me
Come on baby and rescue me
'Coz I need you, by my side
Can't you see that I'm lonely, rescue me

at the end of which, RAPUNZEL feels a tug on her hair

Ow! That's strange. Mother's back already. Well, she can jolly well apologise for all her horribleness! (**Faces resolutely away from the window**) I shall just pretend that I haven't even noticed her.

JUAN appears in the window

JUAN Well, hello, Princess Rapunzel!

RAPUNZEL WHAT??!

JUAN Your rescue service has arrived – and I just love that song.

RAPUNZEL Who are you?

JUAN Juan Forthemoney (**knee slap**) – your knight in shining armour!

RAPUNZEL Stop right there! Before we go any further..

JUAN What?

RAPUNZEL I've heard about people like you.

JUAN Like how?

RAPUNZEL Like, you're a man!

JUAN Hey – you noticed!

RAPUNZEL Keep back!

JUAN I won't move a muscle... OK, Princess?

RAPUNZEL I'm not a princess – and I'm not going to marry you!

JUAN Eh? I didn't ask.

RAPUNZEL But you might. That's what knights in shining armour do.

JUAN OK... OK... I don't want to marry you, does that satisfy you?

RAPUNZEL Why not? What's wrong with me?

JUAN Nothing! I mean – you're great! Look, can we just rewind? You're the long lost Princess Rapunzel and I'm here to take you home!

RAPUNZEL If I was Princess Rapunzel, don't you think I'd know it?

JUAN Well, let's see. What's special about you...? Do you cry golden tears?

RAPUNZEL What kind of question is that?

JUAN The Princess Rapunzel could cry golden tears.

RAPUNZEL So?

JUAN. Well, do you or don't you?

RAPUNZEL Not necessarily.

JUAN Not ever?

RAPUNZEL Never! There, you see - I don't!

JUAN Except those ones on the wall. I reckon you're a princess, Rapunzel – and you want to know what else I reckon...?

RAPUNZEL What?

- JUAN You're a rubbish liar.
- RAPUNZEL A rubbish liar!? Do you realise how annoying you are? And anyway, if I actually was a princess, which I'm not – what's in it for you?
- JUAN Well, if you're not a princess, nothing at all. But I reckon you are.
- GOTHEL **(off)** Rapunzel, Rapunzel let down your hair!
- RAPUNZEL Mother's back – we'll see what she has to say!
- JUAN She's not your mother. Your mother is the Queen of Chiswickia and the old bird hoisting herself up your hair is a witch. **(Aside)** Hey, this is serious. I mean, the old bird really is a witch!
- RAPUNZEL. The Queen of Chiswickia? I've never even heard of Chiswickia!
- GOTHEL **(appearing in window)** Rapunzel? What's all this talk about Chiswickia? There's no such place as Chiswickia!
- RAPUNZEL **(to JUAN)** See?!

GOTHEL sees JUAN

- GOTHEL You traitorous little minx! **(Pointing)** This is a man!
- JUAN Do we really need to be so gender specific?
- GOTHEL Nobody is allowed up here. Nobody! Who else have you been seeing?
- RAPUNZEL No one, Mother, I promise you!
- GOTHEL You better be telling the truth, my girl. For years I've kept you safe – and now look! Well, there's only one way to deal with intruders. Waylon! **(Squeak noise. GOTHEL takes puppet WAYLON from her bag)**
- JUAN What's that?
- GOTHEL It's Waylon - the death Weasel!
- JUAN **(backing off)** Now, just hang on –
- GOTHEL Kill him, Waylon – kill him!

JUAN is backing off into the wing. GOTHEL throws Puppet into the wing after him and laughs wickedly. Sound effect. We hear a fearsome tussle

Pop goes the weasel...!

JUAN and full size WAYLON emerge from the wing fighting. WAYLON wears a small backpack or something that suggests body armour [see Raccoon character for ref.]

WAYLON I'm a Guardian of the Galaxy! Yeeowww! Currunch!

GOTHEL That's it, Waylon, knock his head off!

RAPUNZEL No, stop it!

GOTHEL Kill him Waylon, kill him!

RAPUNZEL No!

WAYLON wallops JUAN, who careers over towards GOTHEL, who grabs a large frying pan and whacks JUAN over the head. There is a loud clang – and JUAN falls unconscious

RAPUNZEL You've killed him! How could you do that?

WAYLON **(in an ecstasy)** I'll take on anyone – I am the destroyer – I am the darkness!

GOTHEL Yes, alright, Waylon. Give me a hand and we'll put him in the bedroom.

GOTHEL and WAYLON drag JUAN off

Don't worry, he's not dead.

RAPUNZEL. **(to Audience)** I've never seen them like that before. I mean – they're often spiteful and nasty. But not like that!

HILDA **(off)** Rapunzel, Rapunzel let down your hair!

RAPUNZEL What?! Who can that be? Aah! **(RAPUNZEL'S is yanked back to the window by her hair)** This is insane! Whoever you are, you're pulling way too hard!

HILDA appears in the window

HILDA Rapunzel, my baby!

RAPUNZEL I'm not anyone's baby. Who are you?

HILDA Don't you recognise me? I'm your Nanny – but you can call me Hilda! I haven't seen you for eighteen years! **(Goes to hug Rapunzel, but in doing so lets go of the window sill and nearly falls)** Woaaaaaah! **(RAPUNZEL helps her clamber back)** Ow! Oooh! Thank you. You're so much bigger and stronger than I remember. I nearly fell to my death. WHAT????! I nearly fell to my death???! What

was I thinking of? I'm too old for all this! I could have been toast! I could have gone splat! I'm going! I'm going!

Audience shout. GOTHEL rushes back in

GOTHEL What's all this shouting and screaming!? **(Sees HILDA)** And who's this!?? Oh...! I see it all now! **(To RAPUNZEL)** You don't love me even one tiny little jot. You never did! You just want parties with all your friends! I gave you everything, Rapunzel. All my love – and you just give me nothing! Well, let's just see how you like this! **(Grabs RAPUNZEL and starts to hack off her hair)**

RAPUNZEL No! Stop it!

GOTHEL You cheating, deceitful, two faced little Miss Heart Breaker!

RAPUNZEL Stop it!

GOTHEL There! **(Throws hair out of window, leaving Rapunzel's hair normal)** Who's going to come and see you now?

RAPUNZEL What have you done? You've cut off all my hair!

GOTHEL Too bad – it'll grow back in eighteen years!

RAPUNZEL I'm not me anymore!

GOTHEL The proper you was supposed to love me!

RAPUNZEL Well, maybe this is the proper me! Maybe now I'm free! And I certainly won't have to wait in all the time for you to climb up my hair! Now none of us can get in or out! Did you think about that?

GOTHEL Well, actually, Rapunzel, I did. Because I can do magic and you can't. In fact, you're trapped. And too bad there's only one umbrella! **(Grabs umbrella and climbs on to sill)** Come on Waylon, we'll leave them all to stew! We'll see who you love when you've had a think about it!

GOTHEL opens umbrella and Mary Poppins-like, jumps down, laughing wickedly. SFX. We hear Waylon's high pitched wicked laughter followed by a bash

(off) Shut up, Waylon!

HILDA What are we going to do?

RAPUNZEL I don't know. We're trapped. I must see to Juan.

HILDA What? Have you got some bloke up here?

Rapunzel

RAPUNZEL Yes – I mean, no! He just appeared!

JUAN appears groaning and holding his head

HILDA Juan Forthemoney! What are you doing here?

JUAN What do you think I'm doing here?

RAPUNZEL Do you two know each other?

HILDA takes RAPUNZEL aside

HILDA Rapunzel – if you want to see boys, I'm not sure that Juan Forthemoney is the best boy for you to see.

RAPUNZEL I've never met him before!

HILDA He's a bit – fast. If you get my drift.

RAPUNZEL What do you mean, 'fast'?

JUAN Hey – where's all your hair?

RAPUNZEL Mother cut it off. We're trapped.

HILDA Trapped! I forgot. We're trapped! What are we going to do? There's no way down!

RAPUNZEL **(to JUAN)** Do you think I look OK?

JUAN What?

RAPUNZEL My hair!

JUAN Oh, yeah – fine, great!

RAPUNZEL Are you sure?

HILDA Rapunzel, there is no way DOWN!

RAPUNZEL Ok – just try to keep calm!

HILDA I am trying to keep calm - but there is no way down!

MAX **(off)** Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair!

JUAN Hey – it's getting busy up here.

HILDA It's Max, my son!

RAPUNZEL Your son?

HILDA Yes - and I've had a brainwave! We're saved!

RAPUNZEL How?

HILDA I knew all my on the road unmentionables would come in useful for something!

JUAN **(off)** What?

HILDA My spare undies - I can unravel them! **(Shouting down to MAX)** Maxwell! Rapunzel hasn't got any hair anymore. We'll need to use my undies!

MAX What?!

HILDA I'll unravel them like a rope!

MAX **(off)** OK - let's do it!

HILDA Hit it, Nick!

MUSIC. HILDA turns and twirls unravelling her petticoats to reveal a long washing line of various pieces of oversized underwear. This gets longer and longer and is lowered out of the window. With a final, triumphant twirl, HILDA finishes. Unfortunately, no one catches the onstage end and they fly out of the window

EVERYONE NO!

RAPUNZEL Look, keep calm, there's got to be a solution!

HILDA The solution just fell out the window and now there's no way up or down and we're all going to die! I've not felt so desperate since booking a flight via Heathrow. I'm going...! I'm going...!

(Audience shout. HILDA breaths deep, but in vain) No – no, it's no good. It won't work.! I'm still going! We're all doomed, doomed to die in this tiny little garret! **(Grabs JUAN and shakes him in her agitation)** Don't you understand, we're all doomed!

JUAN Ok, ok – keep your knickers on!

HILDA WHAT DID YOU SAY???!

JUAN Sorry – sorry – wrong thing to say!

HILDA Look – there's just one window – a huge great drop – and no door. Yesterday there was always tomorrow, but now there are no more tomorrows. Just a window – and we're all going to die! There is JUST... NO... SOLUTION!

Rapunzel

A ladder appears in the window. It is followed by MAX'S head

MAX Hi Mum.

HILDA A ladder! I never thought of a ladder – you're always so practical, Max!

MAX Window Cleaning badge.

HILDA Total genius - now we can escape!

RAPUNZEL Let's go and see the sea! I'll ride shotgun

Song: Shotgun

Homegrown alligator, see you later
Gotta hit the road, gotta hit the road
Something changed in the atmosphere
Architecture unfamiliar
I could get used to this

Time flies by in the yellow and green
Stick around and you'll see what I mean
There's a mountaintop that I'm dreaming of
If you need me you know where I'll be

I'll be riding shotgun underneath the hot sun
Feeling like a someone
I'll be riding shotgun underneath the hot sun
Feeling like a someone

We're south of the Equator, navigator
Gotta hit the road, gotta hit the road
Deep sea diving 'round the clock, bikini bottoms, lager tops
I could get used to this

Time flies by in the yellow and green
Stick around and you'll see what I mean
There's a mountaintop that I'm dreaming of
If you need me you know where I'll be

I'll be riding shotgun underneath the hot sun
Feeling like a someone
I'll be riding shotgun underneath the hot sun
Feeling like a someone
I'll be riding shotgun

BLACKOUT and Curtains

SCENE 4: Back Outside the Tower

JUAN discovered. He carries the picture of Gothel. RAPUNZEL is at the wing

RAPUNZEL Will you hurry up!?

JUAN I don't believe this. After eighteen years searching for the lost Princess Rapunzel, I've finally found you – and you just sent me back up the ladder to fetch a picture of your mother, who isn't even your mother!

RAPUNZEL Yes, she is!

JUAN Yeah, yeah, yeah. And the moon is made of cheese!

RAPUNZEL The moon is made of cheese!

JUAN What?!

RAPUNZEL Mother told me so.

JUAN The moon is not made of cheese and this mother is not your mother! Here take it. **(Hands over picture)**

RAPUNZEL. It's complicated, Juan. Can't you see that?

JUAN It's simple. I'm your rescuer – not the removal man!

RAPUNZEL Max is the one with the brains, he found the ladder!

JUAN But I was the one who climbed up your hair to rescue you and got knocked out fighting an insane giant weasel!

RAPUNZEL Yes, but only because you're some sort of bounty hunter!

JUAN OK, so I need to make a living!

RAPUNZEL And I need to see the world – so, thank you.

JUAN What!?

HILDA **(poking head on)** Will you two stop bickering and hurry up – she could be back any minute!

RAPUNZEL I am hurrying – it's Juan that bickering!

JUAN Me bickering?! It's you that's bickering!

Rapunzel

- HILDA **(entering and steering them off)** OK – you're both bickering. But can we please just get going?! **(They start to exit)**
- RAPUNZEL **(stopping)** Am I really a Princess?
- HILDA Yes dear, of course you are.
- RAPUNZEL In that case, I command Juan to stop bickering!
- HILDA You can do it later! **(Pulling RAPUNZEL off)**
- JUAN **(following)** Exactly – and you don't get to command me to do anything!
- HILDA Look – are we going to find the sea or not? We need to keep moving – and keep out of the clutches of that spooky old witch.
- RAPUNZEL Is she truly not my mother?
- HILDA No, I'm afraid not, Rapunzel.
- RAPUNZEL I can't get my head round it. I mean, sometimes she could be really nice. But now she's horrible!
- HILDA I know dear, but Nanny's here and Nanny will make it alright.
- JUAN Excuse me - Juan's was here first and Juan will make it alright.
- RAPUNZEL Excuse me - how about I, Rapunzel, who is also here, will make it alright?!

MAX enters

- MAX We're nearly at the sea. Around the corner there's a cove with a pub that still hasn't been turned into flats.
- HILDA Well done, Maxwell! I knew that trail-finder badge would come in handy. Let's go to the pub!
- RAPUNZEL I've never been to the pub before!
- HILDA Then let's go there – let's go to the pub!
- ALL To the pub!

MUSIC swells as they exit (possibly a few bars of “Urry Up ‘Arry”)

BLACKOUT

Curtains open

SCENE 5: The Copper Bottom**Song:** *Master of the House*

Welcome, Monsieur, sit yourself down
And meet the best innkeeper in town
As for the rest, all of 'em crooks:
Rooking their guests and cooking the books
Seldom do you see, honest men like me
A gent of good intent who's content to be

Master of the house, doling out the charm
Ready with a handshake and an open palm
Tells a saucy tale, makes a little stir
Customers appreciate a bon-viveur
Glad to do a friend a favour, doesn't cost me to be nice
But nothing gets you nothing everything has got a little price!

Food beyond compare. Food beyond belief
Mix it in a mincer and pretend it's beef
Kidney of a horse, liver of a cat
Filling up the sausages with this and that
Residents are more than welcome, bridal suite is occupied
Reasonable charges plus some little extras on the side!

Charge 'em for the lice, extra for the mice
Two percent for looking in the mirror twice
Here a little slice, there a little cut
Three percent for sleeping with the window shut
When it comes to fixing prices there's a lot of tricks he knows
How it all increases, all them bits and pieces
Jesus! It's amazing how it grows!

Master of the house, quick to catch yer eye
Never was a passerby to pass him by
Servant to the poor, butler to the great
Comforter, philosopher, and lifelong mate!
Everybody bless the landlord!
Everybody bless his spouse!
Everybody raise a glass
Raise it up the master's arse
Everybody raise a glass to the Master of the House!

RAPUNZEL and JUAN enter halfway through and become embroiled in the song.

JOHN We have visitors! Master John Deere at your service and my wife,
Janey Deere!

JANEY Charmed I'm sure.

JOHN Landlord and Landlady of the Copper Bottom! So, what'll it be?

JANEY A pint of Pigswill, Horse Sweat, or Old Sheep's Foot?

RAPUNZEL Have you got a glass of water?

JOHN Water?! **(Laughs uproariously. The CHORUS join in)** Water??!

JANEY We don't drink water!

JOHN Water'll kill you if you drink too much of it. Whoever heard of drinking undiluted water?!

JANEY, JOHN and the CHORUS all laugh

JANEY So, what are you two doing here all on your own-some?

RAPUNZEL Oh, it's not just us. We're waiting for our friends.

MUSIC. HILDA and MAX enter in full sailing rig

JOHN And a hearty welcome to them too! **(to HILDA)** What can I get for you – Mrs Long John Silver!

JANEY **(shrieking)** Mrs Long John Silver?!

JANEY and JOHN laugh uproariously with the CHORUS

JANEY Oh, he is a caution! Talk about humour. He'd bring a smile to the face of a nine day old corpse! Keeps us in stitches he does! Mrs Long John Silver – I ask you! **(Continues to laugh)**

JOHN **(to HILDA)** No offence.

JANEY And none taken, I'm sure! She ought to have a little parrot on her shoulder! **(Laughs uproariously)**

JOHN Mrs Long John Silver! **(Continues to laugh)**

HILDA starts to vibrate

RAPUNZEL **(to HILDA)** Are you OK?

HILDA I'm starting to get agitated, Rapunzel –

MAX Keep calm, Mum.

HILDA I can't, Max, I can't –

Rapunzel

- MAX Yes, you can. Look into my eyes, look deep into my eyes... You are calm, deeply calm...
- HILDA **(mesmerised)** I am, Max. I am...! Who knew the Stage Hypnosis badge would come in so useful? It's amazing what they teach you at Scouts!
- MAX It's a grounding for life, Mum.
- JANEY So, where are you all off to?
- JUAN We want to get back to Chiswickia.
- RAPUNZEL You only want to get back to Chiswickia because you want to make a stash – **(to JANEY)** I want to sail to where the sun rises!
- JUAN You can see the sun rise in Muddlesex!
- RAPUNZEL No, I want to see where it rises here.
- JOHN **(pointing)** That'll be over there, young miss.
- RAPUNZEL Really?
- JOHN But I'll let you into a secret. However far you go, it's always over there.
- RAPUNZEL I don't understand.
- JANEY Only one ship likely to leave the Cove today.
- JUAN What's that?
- JANEY The City Packet
- HILDA That sounds jolly.
- RAPUNZEL Where can we find the Captain?

Doom filled Chord. GOTHEL enters in a piratical costume

- GOTHEL Just here!
- RAPUNZEL Mother!
- GOTHEL Mother??! No - I'm just someone whose love you threw out the window as easily as your hair. But don't think you can get away with this. You want to see where the sun rises? I'll take you somewhere the sun rises. I'll take you somewhere no Muddlesexian will ever find you. You're going South of the River, my girl. See how you like the sun there!

Rapunzel

RAPUNZEL But I don't want to go South of the river!

GOTHEL You should have thought of that before betraying me! Chain her up with her pretty boyfriend! I'll decide what to do with him later.

JOHN, JANEY and the CHORUS chain RAPUNZEL and JUAN together

RAPUNZEL He is NOT my boyfriend!

JUAN Yeah, I mean, it was never going to be an exclusive relationship.

RAPUNZEL WHAT??!

JOHN It is now. Looks like you're attached!

JOHN roars with laughter, together with JAYNEY, GOTHEL and the CHORUS

JAYNEY 'Attached!' John Deere, you were born with a funny bone in all four limbs of your body, I swear you were! **(Shrieks with laughter)**

GOTHEL **(with a gesture)** Enough!

The laughter immediately stops, apart from high pitched laughter from GOTHEL'S bag

(Bashing the bag) Shut up, Waylon! **(The laughter stops)**

Take them to the Packet!

JOHN, JAYNEY etc start to comply

HILDA Hang on a sec. Can we come too?

GOTHEL You look familiar. Who are you - ?

JOHN Mrs Long John Silver!

JOHN, JAYNEY and the CHORUS roar with laughter

GOTHEL Silence!

Laughter immediately stops

I said, who are you?

MAX We're sailors!

GOTHEL Sailors? What are your names?

Rapunzel

HILDA Er -

MAX **(interjecting with a salty seadog's voice)** I'm Able Seaman Abel
Angel, Capp'un!

HILDA **(aside to MAX)** Where did you come up with that?

MAX **(aside to HILDA)** Method Acting badge.

HILDA Amazing.

GOTHEL **(to HILDA)** And you?

HILDA What?

GOTHEL Who are you?

HILDA I'm, er... **(aside to MAX)** Who am I?

MAX **(aside to HILDA)** I don't know – make something up!

HILDA Er...Able Seaman –

GOTHEL Able Seaman?

HILDA Able Seawoman – Daisy Sugar!

MAX **(whispering furiously)** Daisy Sugar??! That's a ridiculous name! No
one would call themselves Daisy Sugar!

HILDA **(also whispering furiously)** Well, I didn't go to Scouts!

GOTHEL Daisy Sugar?

HILDA Aye, aye Capp'un – Able Seawoman Daisy Sugar!

GOTHEL I suppose you'll do.

GOTHEL And what about you lot? Will you be joining us on a voyage South of
the river?

JOHN Will it be a bit of a giggle, like?

GOTHEL There'll be sun, rum and laughter by the bucketload!

JOHN, JAYNEY and CHORUS laugh uproariously

Enough! We sail south!

Song: *In the Navy*

Lyrics go here

CURTAIN

INTERVAL

SCENE 6: Aboard the City Packet

Two cannons (one larger than the other) face either side. Still chained together, RAPUNZEL and JUAN are discovered on their hands and knees, scrubbing the deck with a wooden bucket between them. JOHN, JAYNEY and the CREW busy on deck. MAX and HILDA's heads appear through a couple of portholes (hand held?)

Song: *Pirate King*

-Lyrics go here -

JUAN Happy with the sunrise...?

RAPUNZEL ignores him

(Points) Still over there... Doesn't seem to be getting any closer....

RAPUNZEL still ignores him. JUAN gives the chain a tweak

RAPUNZEL Ow! You're pulling the chain!

JUAN I'm just scrubbing away – day fifteen at sea, with you at my side – and I'm just scrubbing away. **(Continues to scrub)** Maybe the sun is made of Jubilee Trifle.

RAPUNZEL What?

JUAN Well, if the moon is made of cheese, maybe the sun is made of jubilee trifle. I mean, it's gigantic and it's kind of orange, maybe it's lemon and mandarin flavour.

RAPUNZEL Very funny...! Maybe the moon isn't made of cheese. But the only thing you actually know about the moon, Juan, is that it isn't made of cheese! You just go, "Oh, look, there's the moon. I bet it's not made of cheese!"

JUAN Yeah, yeah, yeah. And if we could just catch a falling star we could make a wish and everything would be OK.

RAPUNZEL It WOULD! Why are you so - thick?!

JUAN Thick?! I'm the one who has to wait up chained to you night after night, whilst you repeatedly fail to catch falling stars! And you think it's me that's thick?

RAPUNZEL OK – unimaginative, lacking in curiosity – and thick.

JUAN **(a beat)** Do I irritate you?

Rapunzel

RAPUNZEL Do bears sit in the woods? **(Continues to scrub the deck)**

JUAN Sorry.

RAPUNZEL What?

JUAN I said, sorry

RAPUNZEL That's OK... **(She watches JUAN scrub for a moment and then pulls his chain)**

JUAN Ow!

RAPUNZEL Sorry.

JUAN sighs resignedly and continues to scrub. He starts to hum a tune under his breath. RAPUNZEL recognises it as the song she sang in the tower. She joins him and they harmonise for a moment

RAPUNZEL That's my song.

JUAN I know. I remember the first time I heard you sing it.

RAPUNZEL I'd have hidden if I'd known you were out there.

JUAN I was looking for a lost princess – and you looked so beautiful in the window of that tower.

RAPUNZEL Me...!? Beautiful? Did you really think that, Juan?

JUAN Yeah...

RAPUNZEL Wow... Really?

JUAN Yep. Shame you turned out to be mad as a box of frogs and twice as annoying.

RAPUNZEL I thought you were being nice! **(Yanks the chain hard)**

JUAN Ow - I was only joking!

RAPUNZEL Yes – well, it was about as funny as a bucket of water in the face!
There - see how funny you find a bucket of water in the face!

Throws bucket of water in JUAN'S face. NB. could be silver and blue silver streamers rather than water

JUAN Hey – that's not funny!

RAPUNZEL I know it's not funny! You're not funny! You think you've rescued me, but all you've done is completely mess my life up!

Rapunzel

JUAN Hey – I don't think I've rescued you anymore – because you are the most un-rescuable princess that ever lived!

RAPUNZEL No, I'm not!

JUAN Yes, you are! Snow White, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty - they all said 'thank you' – not bog off, you're too thick and unimaginative for me!

RAPUNZEL They all got married!

JUAN Yeah? Well, that's exactly what we're NOT going to do!

GOTHEL **(entering angrily)** What's all this noise and racket?!

R & J **(together)** S/he started it!

GOTHEL Well, either way, I'm the one who's going to finish it! Over the side and into the Steam Barge!

RAPUNZEL What?

GOTHEL You can tow along behind where I can't hear you!

RAPUNZEL Put Juan in the Steam Barge – I'm not going over the side!

GOTHEL Oh, really – and is that your last word on the matter?

RAPUNZEL Yes, it is!

GOTHEL Well, in that case you can stay for twice as long! **(Makes a gesture)**

BLACKOUT. LIGHTS UP. RAPUNZEL and JUAN have gone

We need some discipline on this ship. We'll do gun drill. **(calling)**
Gun crews on deck! Deere, Deere, Angel and Sugar on deck!

JOHN, JAYNEY, MAX and HILDA run on to man their guns

JOHN Gun crew one reporting for duty Captain Gothel, Ma'am!

GOTHEL Very good, Deere.

HILDA Gun crew two reporting for duty Captain Gothel, Ma'am!

GOTHEL Thank you, Sugar.

HILDA Not at all, sweetie.

GOTHEL What did you say?

HILDA Sorry, brain fog.

Rapunzel

MAX (raising hand) Capp'un Gothel

GOTHEL Yes, Angel?

JANEY (smirking) Ooh – Angel!

GOTHEL Are you smirking, Deere?

JANEY No, my lover – I mean Captain.

GOTHEL Very good. Keep it that way. (To MAX) Yes, dear – I mean Angel!

MAX Permission to load ship's guns?

GOTHEL Permission granted. Load the ship's guns! Gunpowder cartridge, ball, rammer – fire!

Both CREWS pick up little white paper or cotton cartridge like a floppy fat sausage

HILDA (wagging cartridge) Cartridge? What, you mean this floppy little sausage thing?

GOTHEL Yes, Sugar. It's full of gunpowder.

HILDA Waaah!

Throws cartridge, which is caught by MAX and shoved into the gun barrel

Oh, well done, Maxwell. Catapults and Cannons badge?

MAX Correct.

HILDA What next, Captain, dear?

GOTHEL Don't call me dear!

HILDA You call him 'dear'.

GOTHEL I call him Deere because that's his name! Do you understand me, Sugar!

HILDA Yes, Sweetie.

GOTHEL WHAT??!

HILDA I'm sorry, I'm sorry, it just popped out! I was just trying to be nice.

GOTHEL You don't need to be nice on a ship, Sugar!

Rapunzel

JOHN I reckon, you should call her Honeybun and be done with it!

JANEY **(shrieking with laughter)** Honeybun!? John Deere, you crease me up you do!

JOHN and JANEY laugh. The OTHERS look on stonily

JOHN I just thought of it, like – Honeybun!

JANEY **(through laughter)** If you were stood on the scaffold with the noose about your neck you'd still find humour in the situation, John Deere. The hangman wouldn't be able to hang you for laughing - Honeybun!
(Laughs hysterically)

GOTHEL SILENCE!

The laughter stops

We'll have no more laughter on this ship. **(Includes audience in her glare)** None of you are here to enjoy yourselves. Gun Captains go and fetch your balls.

JOHN and HILDA both rush to collect a cannon ball

No, Sugar! Don't touch his balls!

HILDA I beg your pardon?

GOTHEL He's got bigger balls than you!

HILDA He has?

GOTHEL Your balls are over there. Come on, hurry up, hurry up, hurry up!

JOHN and HILDA collect their balls, miming the heaviness and load them into the front of their guns

HILDA's first cannonball is a football which she throws offstage with some world cup related comment. ie "another shot that missed" or something related to the latest game.

Right, tamp the shot down.

JOHN and HILDA grab the rammers and shove them into their guns. As they withdraw them, they simultaneously jab each other's backsides. Car horn noise from the pit

J & H Ow!

JOHN Can't you be more careful?

Rapunzel

HILDA Me be more careful?

GOTHEL Silence - and fire!

A glowing match is applied to each gun. ALL cover their ears. We hear a loud bang, followed by humming sound of the shot, which then seems to reverse. HILDA and MAX's ball is thrown back from the wing

HILDA **(catching ball)** We must have been firing into the wind!

MAX Hey look - land ahoy!

EVERYONE looks out front

HILDA They must be the white cliffs of Arabia!

GOTHEL **(grabbing telescope)** The White Cliffs of Arabia?

JOHN Does Arabia have White Cliffs?

JANEY They've got camels.

JOHN What's camels got to do with it?

GOTHEL Who's been steering this ship?

ALL look elsewhere and find something else to occupy them

GOTHEL **(marching to wheel)** Let me see. The chart's upside down!

MAX **(aside to HILDA)** I turned it over.

HILDA **(aside to MAX)** Subterfuge at Sea badge?

MAX **(aside to HILDA)** Correct.

GOTHEL We haven't been steering south at all!

JANEY They must be the White Cliffs of Muddlesex then!

JOHN But the sun's been shining all day. It can't be Muddlesex! Muddlesex has a totally variable climate!

SFX. Lightning crack and clap of thunder.

BLACKOUT

Curtain

SCENE 7: Adrift at Sea.

Thunder, Lightning and Storm noises. RAPUNZEL and JUAN are revealed in a rowing boat (A cut-out, suspended from their shoulders). Their legs are hidden by a lightweight cloth painted watery colours and held by a person in either wing and agitated accordingly

RAPUNZEL We've broken adrift!

JUAN The rope must have snapped! This isn't exactly a superyacht.

RAPUNZEL Keep rowing, Juan!

JUAN I am rowing!

RAPUNZEL Row harder! We're in the middle of a storm!

Suddenly it is calm. Balmy sunshine. Seagull noises

Oh... It's OK.

JUAN Hey – Did you know Norwegian Frigates have bar codes on?

RAPUNZEL Do they? Why?

JUAN It's so that after a war they can "scan de navy in"

RAPUNZEL Aaaargh. **(Bops Juan on the head with paddle)** Scan that in boat brain!

JUAN Ow. I can see white cliffs ahead.

RAPUNZEL It doesn't feel very desert-like.

JUAN No. We could almost be in Muddlesex.

RAPUNZEL Where's Muddlesex?

JUAN I dunno. Somewhere inaccessible by car. Very changeable weather though.

Sudden return to storm. The boat is buffeted around. After a huge crash of thunder there is an abrupt return to calm

JUAN Wow! I can't even see the ship anymore.

RAPUNZEL I know. We're all on our own.

Rapunzel

- JUAN Rapunzel – I don't know what's going to happen to us – but if for some reason we don't make it, I just want you to know one thing.
- RAPUNZEL What...?
- JUAN Well, there's something I need to tell you.
- RAPUNZEL OK...?
- JUAN Something important.
- RAPUNZEL Yes, Juan. What is it?
- JUAN Well...
- RAPUNZEL **(expectantly)** Yes, Juan...?
- JUAN This is all your fault!
- RAPUNZEL That's a horrible thing to say! When we get to shore I never want to see you ever again!
- JUAN Great – that can't come a second too soon!

Crash of thunder. Prolonged atrocious weather. The little boat is buffeted all over the place

- RAPUNZEL Paddle faster, Juan!
- JUAN I am paddling faster!
- RAPUNZEL You're not paddling fast enough! Let me do it!
- JUAN What?
- RAPUNZEL I said, let me do it. You bail!
- JUAN This is ridiculous!
- RAPUNZEL Out of the way!

RAPUNZEL snatches the paddle. They paddle and bail furiously

- RAPUNZEL The boat's filling up!
- JUAN Stop padding, Rapunzel – and just start bailing!
- RAPUNZEL I am bailing!

Both RAPUNZEL and JUAN bail for their lives

Rapunzel

RAPUNZEL It's no good, Juan. We're sinking.

JUAN We're not going to make it! Take hold of my hand, Rapunzel! Take hold of my hand and don't let go!

The little boat sinks as the billowing sea cloth rises.

BLACKOUT

SCENE 8: The White Cliffs of Muddlesex.**SFX: Waves on the shore****JUAN revealed lying unconscious. RAPUNZEL rushes to him.**

RAPUNZEL Juan...! Juan! Wake up, Juan...! Juan, please wake up...! Oh, it's no good! He's gone! **(She cradles JUAN'S head in her lap)** I can't believe it! And he died trying to save me. I know he dreamed of claiming half a kingdom – but even so, he still was trying to save me, to rescue me and take me back to Chiswickia... Oh, you stupid man – why did you have to die? Why couldn't you have stayed alive? Why did you always have to drive me mad? Why couldn't you have just – smiled at me a bit more...! There, I've said it. And I didn't even really know that I kind of liked the way his eyes looked when he smiled. But I've lost him now - and all I really wanted him to do was smile at me and kiss me, and tell me I was beautiful...

JUAN **(raising his head)** Do you really mean that?

RAPUNZEL What???! You're alive! How long have you been awake?

JUAN Since you said – something about my smile.

RAPUNZEL But that's awful!

JUAN What - I thought you liked my smile?

RAPUNZEL That was private. I thought you were dead!

JUAN Well, I'm very sorry for being alive!

RAPUNZEL I've never felt anything like that before!

JUAN **(getting up)** And I've never met anybody who preferred me dead before!

RAPUNZEL Stop! Where are you going?

JUAN This way!

RAPUNZEL No!

JUAN What?

RAPUNZEL I want to go that way. **(Points in other direction)**

JUAN Why?

RAPUNZEL I just think it's my destiny.

JUAN What??!

RAPUNZEL I just think it would be best.

JUAN I don't believe this.

They exit in Rapunzel's preferred direction

MAX enters at the back of the auditorium in tattered underwear

MAX **(calling)** Mum! Where are you?

HILDA **(entering the other side, also in tattered underwear)** I'm here!
Maxwell, you're alive!

MAX So, are you! I thought you were a goner!

HILDA No, I'm very much alive!

BOTH Excuse me, excuse me, excuse me... etc.

They make their way to each other through a row of seats and embrace

HILDA Oh, Maxwell! **(A beat)** Hang on a sec, I've just realised that I'm in my undies!

MAX And so am I – in the middle of all these people!

HILDA Is there a badge for this sort of situation?

MAX No, Mum, there isn't!

BOTH Excuse me, please, excuse me... etc

They sheepishly make their way back the way they came and up on to the stage

HILDA That's better. I know they need something for the Dads, but there are limits.... So, this is Muddlesex!

MAX They used to run around painted blue, but actually they're ok.

HILDA Are you sure?

MAX Yep. Muddlesex Life Past and Present badge.

HILDA Well, that's a relief. **(Pointing into wing)** Oh, look! Oh, my goodness! English people!

Rapunzel

Several CHORUS enter as armed Knights and others with guns and spears – followed by JOBS and WORTH

GUARD 1 Get back and stand in a queue!

HILDA There are only two of us – who are you?

JOBS I'm Customs Officer, Jobs.

WORTH And I'm Customs Officer Worth.

JOBS And more particularly, Madam, who are you?

WORTH And what are you doing here - actually?

HILDA We were shipwrecked!

JOBS Oh, dearie me.

WORTH The stories some people tell!

MAX But it's true! We're just trying to find our friends.

JOBS I'm afraid you can't find your friends here. You'll have to find them somewhere else.

HILDA Why's that?

JOBS **(ominously)** We're taking back control.

HILDA What?!

WORTH You're not properly dressed.

MAX But we were shipwrecked!

JOBS I'm very sorry about that, sir, but this is Muddlesex - and you, sir, are not wearing a tie.

WORTH And you, Madam, are not wearing a hat.

HILDA You mean, I can't get in without a hat?

MAX And I can't get in without a tie?

WORTH There can be no admission for gentlemen without a tie.

JOBS Or ladies without a hat.

WORTH We do have rules, you know.

- MAX But we were shipwrecked.
- JOBS I could sell you a tie.
- WORTH And I could sell Madam a hat.
- HILDA But we haven't got any money. We lost everything in the wreck!
- WORTH I'm afraid that can't be helped, Madam.
- JOBS We could, under certain circumstances, invoke rule thirty three, sub clause two...?
- HILDA What's that?
- JOBS You'll just have to sing for it. The Customs Service does like a good sing song. Sing loud enough -
- WORTH Oh, yes. Loud is very important. Sing loud enough and we may invoke rule thirty three, subclause two - and loan you a hat and a tie.
- MAX But what shall we sing?
- HILDA You mean you didn't do the Ging Gang Goolie Goolie Goolie Goolie Community Singing badge?
- MAX No, I didn't do the Ging Gang Goolie Goolie Goolie Goolie Community Singing badge!
- JOBS It's all here on form D34. (**Hands over forms**)
- MAX And you just want us to sing it?
- JOBS That's the idea, sir. Nice and loud to fit in with all the regulations.
- MAX Oh, very well. Come on, Mum. Let's give it a go.
- JOBS That's it, sir. After four, sir – a one, two, three, four!
- Song: *Hat and Tie Song***
- (Music at end)*
Here in Muddle-sex, we do the proper checks,
We're not the sort to ever make a fuss!
But we need you to comply,
And wear a hat and tie,
So, play the game and be like one of us!
- HILDA How was that?
- JOBS It does need to be a bit louder, Madam.

WORTH Otherwise, we could have you shot.

The CHORUS raise their guns hopefully

HILDA Hang on, hang on. We'll sing it again.

They sing the song through again. Try and cajole audience to sing along; but of course they don't know the words, CHORUS can join in a bit because they know this song very well by now

WORTH: Did you hear something?

JOBS: Sounded like someone in the second row had a curry recently

WORTH: Guards!

The CHORUS raise their guns again hopefully

HILDA We'll sing it again, we'll sing it again.

They sing the song through again. More audience cajoling, CHORUS joins in louder

HILDA There. How about that?!

JOBS Not loud enough, I'm afraid.

HILDA Not loud enough? Not Loud enough??! It was brilliantly loud!

J, W & P's Oh, no it wasn't!

H & M **(with Audience)** Oh, yes it was!

J, W & P's Oh, no it wasn't!

H & M **(with Audience)** Oh, yes it was!

J, W & P's It wasn't! It wasn't! It wasn't - in triplicate!

H & M **(with Audience)** It was! It was! It was - in triplicate!

WORTH I'm sorry but we'll just have to have you shot.

CHORUS raise their guns

HILDA Alright! OK. We'll give you the benefit of the doubt. We'll sing it louder. Ready team? OK – thank you, Nick

They sing it through with the Chorus and band and everyone backstage

Rapunzel

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! That was positively deafening!

JOBS Not loud enough.

HILDA What??! We were massively loud! Hugely loud! I'm getting upset now. I'm ruffled, I'm flustered – I'm... I'm going! I'm going!

Audience shout. HILDA calms herself down

Thank you... I am calm. **(Sweetly)** Not loud enough, you said?

JOBS We just need a smidge more.

MAX Maybe if we put in a few moves - it might make it that extra bit louder?

HILDA Brilliant idea, Max!

WORTH We could teach you all the official moves if you like?

Ad lib teaching moves and singing song extra loud – with moves

HILDA Fantastic! So, how was that?

WORTH Oh, that was excellent. Wasn't it, Mr/Ms Jobs?

JOBS It was Mr/Ms Worth – and I'm glad to say that you have gained the loan of a hat and tie.

The CHORUS hand over a hat and tie

HILDA Oh, lovely! How do we look?

JOBS You are now perfectly attired.

HILDA We are?

JOBS You are.

HILDA Brilliant. So, now we can find our friends!

WORTH You'll need to get a move on.

HILDA Why?

WORTH It'll soon be nightfall.

SFX: THUMP

BLACKOUT

Rapunzel

That's it. Night's fallen.

MAX Hey, Mum, where are you?!

JOBS I'm afraid that's enough. We can't have acting in the dark – it's not safe.

MAX But surely –

JOBS Now, sir! I must ask you to stop acting with immediate effect!

SCENE 9: The Strawberry Cream Tea Joust.

MUSIC. As the lights slowly rise we see a castle on a hill in the distance. Lights up slowly. **RAPUNZEL** and **JUAN** enter the auditorium...

RAPUNZEL Wow! That's beautiful. Look, Juan. This is where the sun rises!

JUAN And is this your destiny? Not Chiswickia?

RAPUNZEL I don't know, but it's beautiful. Maybe we can find Hilda and Max!

Ominous chord. GOTHEL enters blocking their path up on to the stage

GOTHEL Rapunzel!

RAPUNZEL Mother!

JUAN Hey, her name's Gothel – not Mother!

GOTHEL You keep quiet – or I'll turn you into a worm!

RAPUNZEL Leave him alone!

GOTHEL Ooh! What a feisty young miss you are! Why did you have to throw yourself at the first man you saw?

RAPUNZEL I didn't throw myself at him!

GOTHEL Liar! Liar! Liar! How could you Rapunzel? I gave you everything! You weren't just mine by chance! I stole you to be mine! I chose you!

RAPUNZEL But that's awful...

GOTHEL You're the awful one! You threw my gifts back in my face! But just remember where you are - remember, you're in Muddlesex!

RAPUNZEL So?

GOTHEL They're savages in Muddlesex. Look at them! **(Points at Audience)** These are Muddlesexians! Yes, I said you're all a bunch of savages! **(To RAPUNZEL)** And if they don't get you, I don't fancy your chances against Sir Waylon War-Weasel, the Wicked Wayward Warrior!

RAPUNZEL Sir Waylon War-Weasel?

GOTHEL Yes. He is the destroyer! The darkness... Pop goes the weasel, Rapunzel - and you're done for!

Rapunzel

GOTHEL starts to exit laughing wickedly. WAYLON laughs wickedly. GOTHEL bashes the bag

Shut up, Waylon! Can't you see? I'm desperately upset! **(She exits)**

RAPUNZEL So, she really did steal me. Part of me just couldn't believe it.

JUAN I'm sorry, Rapunzel, I really am.

We hear a fanfare. Followed by a public announcement on a crackly, summer fete sounding PA

"My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen – please be upstanding for their Royal Majesties, King Nigel and Queen Veronica of Muddlesex!"

JUAN Oh, my gosh! English royalty!

MUSIC

They're coming! On your feet, everybody! It's the King and Queen of Muddlesex! Give them a round of applause!

JUAN and RAPUNZEL lead the applause. The KING and QUEEN OF ENGLAND enter, graciously acknowledging the applause. They look exactly like the King and Queen of Chiswickia, although the King's moustache is smaller

QUEEN My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives my husband and I great pleasure to welcome you to this year's Strawberry Cream Tea Joust – an occasion made particularly sweet this summer, by the arrival of my dear twin sister, Bunty and her husband, Bernard – the King and Queen of Chiswickia!

JUAN Oh, my, Rapunzel – that's your Mum and Dad!

RAPUNZEL No, this is too weird - it can't be!

(Fanfare and announcement) "My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen – please be upstanding for their Royal Majesties, the King and Queen of Chiswickia!"

The KING and QUEEN OF MUDDLESEX turn towards the wing and applaud expectantly

JUAN leads the Audience applause. Nothing Happens. The KING of MUDDLESEX coughs and fidgets

QUEEN Oh, how tiresome! My sister is almost never on time. Come along, Nigel. We'll have to go and ginger them up.

The KING and QUEEN of MUDDLESEX exit. A brief pause, then another fanfare and announcement

“My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen – please be upstanding for their Royal Majesties, the King and Queen of Chiswickia!”

JUAN This is it, folks! Back on your feet, this is Rapunzel’s Mum and Dad!

JUAN leads the Audience applause

The KING of MUDDLESEX and QUEEN of CHISWICKIA enter – some small but definite colour change in costume for the QUEEN

JUAN Wow! Look at that! Identical twin sisters marrying identical twin brothers!

KING What’s that, young man? What’s all this nonsense about identical twin brothers?! The King of Chiswickia is a different chap entirely!

QUEEN But you are the King of Chiswickia.

KING No, I’m not, I’m the King of Muddlesex!

QUEEN You’re supposed to be the King of Chiswickia.

KING Am I?

QUEEN Yes, you are.

KING Excuse me, a minute. **(Exits hastily)**

QUEEN **(to Audience)** I’m so sorry everybody. You’re all going to have to applaud again.

SFX. Fanfare and announcement

“My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen – please be upstanding for his Royal Majesty, the King of Chiswickia!”

JUAN Back on your feet, folks!

JUAN leads the applause.

The KING of CHISWICKIA enters, with a similar colour change to the Queen and a luxuriant moustache)

QUEEN **(discretely, but very audibly)** You’re late, Bernard! The King of Muddlesex was mistaken for you – and it’s not the first time!

Rapunzel

KING Mistaken for me? He's a different chap entirely! I don't look like him at all! I mean, you could say that we both have a moustache – but my moustache is much BIGGER than his!

JUAN Excuse me, Sire!

RAPUNZEL **(trying to restrain him)** Not now, Juan!

KING What's that?

JUAN **(kneeling)** You're eighteen year search is over. I have found your daughter!

KING I very much doubt you have!

SFX. PA announcement

"My lords, ladies and gentlemen, the Strawberry Cream Tea Joust is about to commence and will be judged by their Royal Majesties the King and Queen of Muddlesex!"

KING The King and Queen of Muddlesex?! We're the King and Queen of Chiswickia!

QUEEN I know that, Bernard, but that young man said he had found Rapunzel!

KING Not now, Bunty – we need to find Nigel and Veronica!

Sound effect. Mettlesome horse noises. Four bearded Knights gallop on riding hobby horses, almost colliding with the KING and QUEEN, who are trying to exit

Out of our way, out of our way...! **(To QUEEN)** If I had a pound for every Rapunzel that's been found in the last eighteen years I'd be a rich man!

QUEEN But you are a rich man.

KING That's not the point. Now, come along!

The KING and QUEEN exit. PA announcement

"My lords, ladies and gentlemen – my apologies, the Strawberry Cream Tea Joust will be judged by their Royal Majesties the King and Queen of Chiswickia!"

MUSIC. The KING and QUEEN re-enter hurriedly

KING I wish they'd make up their minds! **(To QUEEN)** Every single Rapunzel has been a fake. We've got to accept that she's lost to us.

Rapunzel

(Quickly swaps back the large moustache) Very well, everyone.
Let's get on with it.

Over the PA we hear;
“Sir Gregory the Gallant, the Grappler from Gunnersbury!
Sir Thomas Thameswater, the Terror of Turnham Green Terrace!
Sir Robert Rightmove, the Wrecker of Richmond!
Sir Enid the Exceptional from Ealing! [who is obviously female]!”
A knight enters and bows as each is introduced
“Let the joust commence!”

MUSIC. Two knights peel off to one side and two to the other side.
The two pairs charge at each other. As they make contact they all
fall over. Applause

KING **(aside to QUEEN)** Is that it?

QUEEN I think so. We have to judge them.

KING Right. **(Publicly)** Well done, you fellows, you all did very well. Hard to
separate you, really...

QUEEN So, we think you'd better all go and get yourselves a cream tea!
(Leads applause) but hurry up as some options are vegan.

The Knights get up. Bow and canter off

 Bernard, that young man over there said that he had found our
daughter!

KING Bunty, you know perfectly well that if she was going to be found, she
would have been found and there's an end to it!

QUEEN No, I don't know that!

JUAN Your Royal Majesties, please allow me to re-introduce you to your
daughter the Princess Rapunzel!

KING Young man, you are stretching my patience!

RAPUNZEL Juan, not like this!

JUAN Then like how?

QUEEN What is your name?

RAPUNZEL Rapunzel, ma'am.

KING That proves nothing. Anyone can call themselves Rapunzel. Our
daughter was a once in a hundred years Princess. She cried tears of
gold! Can you do that?

Rapunzel

- RAPUNZEL I don't know. I used to. But I don't think I can anymore.
- KING You see? It's just as I said. The girl's an impostor!
- JUAN Rapunzel, these people are your Mum and Dad! Please – just try to cry the tears.
- RAPUNZEL No, Juan. I don't want to.
- QUEEN Please. If you can - just try...
- RAPUNZEL I'm so sorry. I honestly don't think I can. I don't think I'm that person anymore. It was something that just used to happen when I was someone else.
- KING That's enough! The girl's a fraud and she's upsetting the Queen. Young man, remove yourself and this impostor from our sight!

Fanfare, followed by cheesy PA announcement

“My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, please take your seats for the Cucumber Sandwich Cup, a fun-filled fight to the death for all the family! Who will answer the challenge of Sir Waylon War-Weasel, the Wicked Wayward Warrior?”

MUSIC. WAYLON enters in full armour, as the Knights enter with their cream teas, eager to see the fight

- WAYLON **(bellowing)** I am the destroyer! I am the darkness! Who will challenge the War-Weasel?!
- KING Still here? **(Indicating RAPUNZEL)** Let the impostor fight Sir Waylon!
- QUEEN No, Bernard!
- KING **(ominously)** That is, unless this false Rapunzel has a Champion who will fight for her?

MUSIC. HILDA enters in full armour

- HILDA I – Brunnhilde the Barbarian will be Rapunzel's Champion!
- QUEEN Brunnhilde?! Bernard, it's Nanny Trollop!
- KING I know it's Brunnhilde – I've got eyes, haven't I?!

MUSIC. HILDA wields her long sword as she squares up to WAYLON. WAYLON responds in kind. Lots of aggressive snarls and grunts. There is an initial fearsome clash of swords, which forces HILDA to retreat

Rapunzel

WAYLON (roaring) I am the destroyer! I am the darkness!

HILDA What am I doing? I'm going...! I'm going...!

Audience Shout. HILDA is much restored

Thank you!

Another clash of swords which forces WAYLON to retreat

HILDA (roaring) I am the destroyer! I am the darkness!

WAYLON No, I am the destroyer! I am the darkness!

HILDA NO! Waylon War-Weasel - I am the true destroyer!

WAYLON But I want to be the destroyer - that's not fair!

HILDA All's fair in love and war, matey!

WAYLON I want to be the destroyer and I want to be the darkness! **(Pushes HILDA)**

HILDA Don't you push me! **(Pushes WAYLON)**

WAYLON I will push you if I want to push you because I am the darkness! **(Pushes HILDA)**

HILDA Well, I'll push you back, with knobs on – you big, wimpy weasel, because I am the darkness too! **(Pushes WAYLON)**

WAYLON Ow! You're hurting me!

HILDA Oh, diddums! Did the nasty lady hurt you? **(Grabs WAYLON'S tail)**

WAYLON NO! Not the tail! Please, please – not the tail!

HILDA **(Puts her sword to his tail. To Audience)** Shall I...?

WAYLON NO...!

HILDA Shall I...?

WAYLON NO! Please!

HILDA Shall I...?

WAYLON NO! Please, please, don't cut off my bushy brown tail! **(Bursts into tears)**

HILDA Are you the darkness?

WAYLON (sobbing) No!

HILDA Are you the destroyer?

WAYLON (sobbing) No!

HILDA Oh, very well. I haven't got the heart to do it. Off you go then, scam!

WAYLON runs off

I've done it! I've won! **(Roaring dementedly)** I am the destroyer! I am the darkness – **(Pointing)** and she is the Princess Rapunzel!

EVERYONE cheers. The KING and QUEEN applaud

QUEEN Rapunzel; Brunnhilde has fought for you and won. After so many years of loss, I hardly dare to hope that you are the daughter we lost so long ago – but please come here and let me see your face more clearly.

RAPUNZEL goes to the QUEEN, who looks at her for a moment

Rapunzel! **(The QUEEN embraces RAPUNZEL)**

KING Is this really true...? Is Rapunzel returned to us?!

Doom filled CHORD. GOTHEL enters, bearing a sword

Gothel!

GOTHEL Yes, it's me - come to ruin your little family reunion. **(Grabs RAPUNZEL)** Because if I can't have her love, then no one can! So, say your goodbyes - she dies today!

Q & K No!

HILDA Here, Rapunzel! Take this! **(Throws her sword to RAPUNZEL)**

RAPUNZEL and GOTHEL fight. GOTHEL starts to gain the upper hand, but at a key moment JUAN rushes in to save RAPUNZEL, who then disarms GOTHEL.

GOTHEL is pinioned by the Knights, who pie her with their cream teas

HILDA Brilliant, Rapunzel! Fantastic! You are the darkness!

RAPUNZEL **(noticing JUAN is hurt)** Juan! Are you OK?

JUAN slumps to his knees

Juan! Speak!

JUAN collapses into RAPUNZEL'S arms

- HILDA He must have got hurt during the fight!
- RAPUNZEL Juan, speak to me – come back! Come back to me...! **(Weeping)**
He's gone! I've lost him! I've lost him forever!
- GOTHEL You're crying! You wouldn't cry for me!
- RAPUNZEL What does it matter? My tears are just nothing now! They're worth nothing! I'm nothing! Not special, not a princess, just nothing – and now look! He died to save me! Oh, Juan, my love...!
- HILDA Rapunzel! His eyes are flickering! Your tears are falling into his eyes and his eyes are flickering!
- RAPUNZEL What...? Juan...?
- KING She's crying tears of love! Her love is bringing him back to life!
- JUAN **(weakly)** Hey...
- RAPUNZEL Juan, you're alive!

ALL bar GOTHEL cheer

- HILDA Now, only a magical princess could have done that – she is the total, once in a hundred years, destroyer!
- QUEEN You need to say something, Bernard.
- KING Yes, I know! **(To JUAN)** Young man, not only have you found our daughter and brought her back to us, but you fought for her and saved her in her hour of greatest need.
- JUAN **(still groggy)** I did?
- RAPUNZEL You did!
- QUEEN And it seems you have won her love.
- JUAN I have?
- RAPUNZEL You have!
- KING **(clasping JUAN'S hand)** And all this being so, there can be no doubt that you truly deserve the reward of half our kingdom!

ALL bar GOTHEL cheer

Rapunzel

(to **GOTHEL**) As for you – your revenge has been monstrous and only the ultimate penalty will suffice. (**Calling out**) Where is Sir Basildon Braveheart, the Bravest of the Brave?

Sir Basildon steps forward, cream smeared over his face

- SIR B I am here, your Majesty!
- RAPUNZEL No! You cannot leave her to Sir Basildon. It's too horrible.
- KING (**grimly**) It would be quick.
- RAPUNZEL For better or for worse, for eighteen years she was my mother – and I cannot deny the corner of my heart that still loves her.
- GOTHEL Rapunzel! Is that true? After all I've done to you? I don't deserve your mercy or your love.
- HILDA No, she doesn't – she's horrible, Rapunzel!
- RAPUNZEL But nothing will make sense if I don't forgive her.
- GOTHEL I don't know what to say. How can you forgive and forget like that?
- RAPUNZEL I only said forgive - no way am I forgetting!
- HILDA Quite right too!
- GOTHEL In that case, I won't forget either. And for all the years left to me I will do everything in my power to try and make things up to you.
- QUEEN But Rapunzel, she stole you from us! She stole our love!
- RAPUNZEL Then I will give you grandchildren to love. Lots of them!
- QUEEN What?!
- HILDA How are you going to do that?
- RAPUNZEL I'm not quite sure. There are so many things I need to know. But I do know that I'm going to marry Juan. (**To JUAN**) Is that OK?
- JUAN What, like forever?
- RAPUNZEL Yes, Juan. Forever!
- JUAN Well, if you've set your heart on it – and to tell you the truth, I fell in love with you the first day I ever saw you. So forever would be a long time to be without you!
- RAPUNZEL Is that true?

Rapunzel

JUAN Yes, of course it's true! So - Princess Rapunzel - would it be OK if I, sort of, kiss you?

RAPUNZEL Well... Maybe, just a little bit.

Tentatively and tenderly, they kiss. ALL cheer

KING Nanny Trollop, you too have been a hero today. You too must be rewarded.

HILDA Me, Your Majesty? But I don't really want anything -

MAX runs on

MAX Mum... Mum!

HILDA Maxwell!

MAX **(to KING and QUEEN)** Oh - excuse me, Your Majesties!

HILDA Where have you been?

MAX I've been looking for you since it all went dark.

QUEEN Brunnhilde - there must be something you want...?

HILDA Well, now that you actually mention it - I don't know if you remember my boy, Maxwell. He's always been mad keen on the Scouts and his badges – and without all his clear thinking and practical help, we none of us would be here today!

RAPUNZEL That's true, Mother.

QUEEN Oh, Rapunzel – to hear the word 'Mother' from you makes me so happy!

KING Yes - today is the happiest day of our reign – and Muddlesex has a vacancy for Chief Scout!

HILDA We do?

KING We do – and your son, Maxwell, must have the position!

HILDA Oh, your Majesty – this is too much!

MAX No, it isn't Mum! **(To KING)** Thank you your Majesty!

KING Then that's settled. You shall be Chief Scout and wear Scouting's highest honour.

MAX The absolutely everything badge!

Rapunzel

KING Yes, indeed. The absolutely everything badge!

FANFARE. Two CHORUS bring on a felt badge on a cushion and an iron on a cushion. The QUEEN solemnly 'irons' (Velcro) the badge onto MAX's shoulder. ALL applaud

There – it is done. And now we can all go back to Chiswickia with our beautiful daughter and our soon to be son in law!

JUAN Oh, wow - I feel like I've caught a falling star and made a wish!

RAPUNZEL And so do I! I just can't wait to get back!

Song: *We Go Together*

We go together
Like rama lama-lama ka digga de dinga dong
Remembered forever
As shoo-bop sha wadda wadda yippity boom de boom
Chang chang chang-itty chang chee-bop
That's the way it should be
Wah-oooh, yeah!

We're one of a kind
Like dip-da dip-da-dip doo-wop, da-doo-bee-doo
Our names are signed
Boogedy boogedy boogedy boogedy
Shoo-bee doo-wop doo-wop
Chang chang chang-itty chang chee-bop
We'll always be like one, wah-wah-wah-one

When we go out at night
And stars are shinin' bright
Up in the skies above
Or at the high school dance
Where you can find romance
Maybe it might be love

Rama lama lama ka digga da dinga dong
Shoo-bop sha wadda wadda yippity boom de boom
Chang chang chang-itty chang she-bop
Dip da-dip da-dip doo-wop da doo-bee doo
Boogedy boogedy boogedy boogedy
Shoo-be doo-wop doo-wop
Sha-na-na-na-na-na-na yippity dip de doom
Rama lama lama ka dinga da dinga dong
Shoo-bop sha wadda wadda yippity boom de boom
Chang chang chang-itty chang she-bop
Dip da-dip da-dip, doo-wop da doo-bee doo

Rapunzel

Boogedy boogedy boogedy boogedy
Shoo-be doo-wop she-bop
Sha-na-na-na-na-na-na-na yippity dip de do
Wop-ba-ba du-bop, a wop-bam-boo!

(Dance break if required)

We're for each other
Like a wop ba-ba du-bop a wop bam boo
Just like my brother is Sha-na-na-na-na-na-na-na yippity dip de doo
Chang chang chang-itty chang chee-bop
We'll always be together
Wha-oooh, yeah!

X7
We'll always be together
We'll always be together
We'll always be together
We'll always be together
We'll always be together
We'll always be together
We'll always be together

Chang chang chang-itty chang she-bop
Chang chang chang-itty chang she-bop

We'll always be to-
(Chang chang changitty chang sha-bop)
Wop-ba-ba du-bop, a wop-bam-boo!

Scene 10: Audience Participation

HILDA Well that was fun wasn't it? And while Rapunzel and Juan get ready for the big wedding we've got some time together again. And you know what that means, don't you? Yes it's time to howl with Hilda

But just before we do that, I couldn't help noticing one tiny teeny-weeny problem with the script this time. Where's my man? It's traditional and after all, Abanazar was so last year.

And that's why we're going to sing MY song choice this time which gets straight to the point (**call off**) can we have the lyrics please.....and it's OK if you want to be my girl too! Just sing however you feel tonight

Song: Hey Baby

Hey hey baby
Ooo aah
I wanna know if you'll be my man

HILDA Do let me know....especially you Malcolm. I have to go and get ready for the wedding now so I'll leave you with these lovely people

#1 I think we're well warmed up now but just in case, let's sing this once more all together

Sing

#2 Excellent, now this year we're going to try something absolutely brand new. The girls and boys will have different parts and we're going to get those parts together and see what happens. Yes?

#1 Brilliant. Here's how it works. The boys can sing the "ooos" and the girls sing the "aahs" (that's a plural not a rude word)

Sing

#2 That was wonderful. Let's try it again and let's see how loud we can get the ooos and aahs.

Sing

#1 & #2 Ad lib competitions until backstage is ready

#1 Enough of all this fun. It's time for the big wedding so let's sing it again, with the volume turned up to 11, the boys on ooo and the girls on aah; just like before.

Sing

Rapunzel

#1+2

We'll be off now and leave you with Nick for one last singalong. 'Bye

Sing

Rapunzel

Scene 11: Walkdown

QUEEN Our child was lost, but now she's found,
KING And as a princess will be crowned.
GOTHEL No longer bad, I'm now a goodie,
HILDA And so, she'll do the things she shouldie!
MAX Mum!
HILDA Sorry.
RAPUNZEL My dream came true –
JUAN And so did mine,
RAPUNZEL And soon as one,
JUAN We'll be just fine!
RAPUNZEL It's time to bid you all adieu.
ALL And wish you Merry Christmas too

Song: *Merry Christmas Everyone*

Snow is falling
All around me
Children playing
Having fun
It's the season
Love and understanding
Merry Christmas Everyone

Time for parties
And celebrations
People dancin'
All night long
Time for presents
And exchanging kisses
Time for singing Christmas songs

We're gonna have a party tonight
I'm gonna find that girl underneath the mistletoe
We'll kiss by candlelight.

Room is swaying

Rapunzel

Records playing
All the old songs
I love to hear
Oh I wish that
Everyday was Christmas
What a nice way
To spend the year

We're gonna have a party tonight
I'm gonna find that girl underneath the mistletoe
We'll kiss by candlelight.

Snow is falling
All around me
Children playing
Having fun.
Its the season
For love and understanding
Merry Christmas Everyone
Merry Christmas Everyone
Merry Christmas Everyone

Props List

Rapunzel's Hair

Gothel's Bag (containing Waylon (Fluffy toy))

Pram with baby Rapunzel (is not seen) and a giant marrow

Loud hailer for cheesy announcements

Various Fruit and Veg (stretchy rhubarb, blow up radish, green rosette, etc)

Grand cushion with a beautiful lettuce

Scooters for knights

Cheese and pickle sandwich

Binoculars

Pictures of golden tears

Pretty ribbons, pork pie, princesses story book (inside Gothel's bag for Scene 3)

Big pair of scissors (or knife or axe)

Backpack for Waylon

Large frying pan

Umbrella

String of oversized underwear (Hilda wears)

Ladder

Picture of Gothel

Tankards for the pub

Chains

Ship's wheel

Two cannons (one big one small)

Bucket and scrubbing brushes (bucket with "water" in it)

2 x Cannon balls (and one football)

2 x Cartridges (floppy white sausage like thing)

Rapunzel

2 x Cannon rammers

Matches to light cannons

Nautical Chart

Cardboard rowing boat and 2 paddles (hangs off shoulders)

Baling buckets

Sea cloth

Guns and spears (guards)

D34 Forms, clipboard, pens

2 x Hats and Ties

Cream Teas

Hobby horses (or scooters)

Long sword

Iron on a cushion

Felt badge on a cushion