



BABES
in Toyland

Book by R. J. Ryland
Music and Lyrics by Bill Francoeur

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Pioneer
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BABES IN TOYLAND

Book by REBECCA RYLAND
Music and Lyrics BILL FRANCOEUR

CAST OF CHARACTERS

		<i># of lines</i>
<u>PRINCIPAL MOTHER GOOSE LAND CHARACTERS:</u>		
WIDOW PIPER.....	a poor widow supporting fourteen children	46
MISTRESS MARY.....	Widow Piper's quite contrary daughter	110
ALAN.....	in love with Mistress Mary and heir to a small fortune	56
BARNABY.....	Alan's uncle; an endearingly wicked villain with a heart of ash	154
GONZORGO.....	a sea-going ruffian and Barnaby's assistant	79
RODERIGO.....	Gonzorgo's simple-minded partner	59
<u>ADDITIONAL MOTHER GOOSE LAND CHARACTERS:</u>		
TOM TOM THE PIPER'S SON...	Mistress Mary's brother	17
LITTLE BO PEEP.....	lost her sheep	16
LITTLE MISS MUFFET.....	sat on a tuffet	11
MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB.....	little lamb, little lamb	22
LITTLE BOY BLUE.....	blows a horn	3
LITTLE BETTY BLUE.....	lost her holiday shoe	4
JACK BE NIMBLE.....	very quick	3
PETER PETER PUMPKIN EATER.....	had a wife and couldn't keep her	3
LITTLE JACK HORNER.....	sells plum pie	5
GOLDILOCKS.....	in the porridge business	4
JACK.....	went up the hill	12
JILL.....	needed to fetch a pail of water	11
LITTLE RED RIDING-HOOD.....	fears the big, bad Barnaby	3
<u>TOYLAND CHARACTERS:</u>		
MASTER TOYMAKER.....	Toyland's top businessman	34
GRUMIO.....	his long-winded apprentice	44
INSPECTOR MARMADUKE.....	large nosed Toyland policeman	21
<u>CHORUS</u> (Double casting possible):		
GYPSIES.....	help Alan in Mother Goose Land	n/a

FOUR SPIDERS.....	menacing inhabitants of the Spider Forest	n/a
THE MOTHER SPIDER.....	four times as big as her children	n/a
DOLLS/TOY SOLDIERS.....	come alive to sing and dance	n/a
ELVES.....	Master Toymaker's assistants	n/a

SETTING

ACT ONE, Scene One: In Mother Goose Land, colorful booths in shapes reminiscent of the local residents are ONSTAGE, such as a shoe, a pumpkin and a haystack. There is also a closed tent with a "Fortunes Told Here" sign out front and other aspects of a small village carnival, as desired. There should be an EXIT from the fortune-telling tent to BACKSTAGE from which ALAN and the GYPSIES ENTER.

ACT ONE, Scene Two: For the Spider Forest, there should be at least two trees, a rail fence and representations of spider webs ONSTAGE.

ACT TWO: In Toyland, over-sized toys, building blocks, playthings, a massive red wagon and life-size dolls fill the STAGE. There should be one large box DOWNSTAGE big enough for several ACTORS and with a hidden EXIT leading BACKSTAGE.

SYNOPSIS

ACT ONE, Scene One: The Mother Goose Land (Christmas) Carnival

ACT ONE, Scene Two: The Spider Forest

ACT TWO: Toyland's Packaging and Shipping Department

SEQUENCE OF MUSICAL NUMBERS

- | | | |
|--------|--|--|
| MC 1 | Babes in Toyland—Prologue | Company |
| MC 2 | A Mother Goose Celebration | Company |
| MC 2a | Gypsy Entrance Music | Instrumental |
| MC 3 | Floretta | Alan, Gypsy Chorus |
| MC 3a | Gypsy Exit Music | Instrumental |
| MC 4 | I Can't Do the Sum | Mistress Mary, Mother
Goose Land
Characters |
| MC 5 | We Won't be Happy
'Til We Get It | Barnaby,
Roderigo, Gonzorgo |
| MC 5a | Scene Change Music | Instrumental |
| MC 5b | Spider Forest | Instrumental |
| MC 6 | Angel in the Night | Alan, Mistress Mary |
| MC 6a | Spider Forest—Exit Music | Instrumental |
| MC 7 | Entr'acte—Floretta | Instrumental |
| MC 8 | Welcome to Toyland | Grumio, Elves |
| MC 9 | Behold My Fairytale/Toyland | Master Toymaker,
Grumio, Alan,
Mistress Mary, Dolls,
Toy Soldiers |
| MC 9a | He Won't be Happy
'Til He Gets It—Reprise | Barnaby, Marmaduke,
Gonzorgo, Roderigo |
| MC 10 | March of the Toy Soldiers | Instrumental |
| MC 10a | March of the Toy Soldiers—
Exit Music | Instrumental |
| MC 10b | Behold My Fairytale/Toyland—
Reprise | Company |
| MC 11 | Curtain Call—
Welcome To Toyland | Company |
| MC 12 | Babes In Toyland—Epilogue | Company |

BABES IN TOYLAND

PROLOGUE

PRIOR TO LIGHTS UP: MUSIC CUE 1: "Babes In Toyland—Prologue."
The COMPANY ENTERS in darkness during the MUSIC INTRODUCTION.
A BALLERINA DOLL ENTERS DOWN CENTER. When the classic TOYLAND MUSIC THEME is heard, a SPOT comes UP on the BALLERINA DOLL. She dances expressionless to the music like a music box ballerina. At the end of the dance, the LIGHTS RISE to DIM on the rest of the COMPANY.

COMPANY: (*Sings.*) Babes in Toyland,
Little girl and boy land.
Nursery rhymes and fairytales
Are yours to behold.

Babes in Toyland,
All aboard for Toyland!
On this day we welcome you.
Let the story unfold!

SOLO ONE: (*Sings.*) Dancing bears...

SOLO TWO: (*Sings.*) ...and cuckoo clocks...

SOLO THREE: (*Sings.*) ...pirate ships...

SOLO FOUR: (*Sings.*) ...a shining knight...

SOLO FIVE: (*Sings.*) ...wagons filled with building blocks...

ALL SOLOISTS: (*Sing.*) All are there for your delight!

BOYS: (*Sing.*) Velvet horses, choo choo trains...

GIRLS: (*Sing.*) ...laughing clowns, a china doll...

BOYS: (*Sing.*) ...fire trucks and aeroplanes...

COMPANY: (*Sings.*) ...wooden soldiers marching tall!

Sound the horns, come one, come all!
Babes in Toyland,
Little girl and boy land.
Close your eyes and see the wonder
Waiting for you.

Babes in Toyland,
All aboard for Toyland!
Leave your troubles far away.
It's a brand new day.
You will find a magic place

Where wishes come true. (*TOYLAND CHARACTERS EXIT. MOTHER GOOSE LAND CHARACTERS remain ONSTAGE. LIGHTS UP FULL. Direct segue to MUSIC CUE 2: "A Mother Goose Celebration."*)

End of PROLOGUE

ACT ONE

Scene One

AT RISE: As MUSIC continues from segue, the Mother Goose Land (Christmas) Carnival in progress. ALL the MOTHER GOOSE LAND CITIZENS are busy and festive. LITTLE BOY BLUE blows his horn. PETER PETER PUMPKIN EATER, nibbling a piece of pumpkin, pops his head out from a giant pumpkin. The carnival is alive with vendors hawking their games and wares. WIDOW PIPER moves DOWN CENTER.

WIDOW PIPER: (*Sings, very officious.*)

Gather round, noble folk of Mother Goose Land.

We must officially begin without delay.

Gather round, girls and boys of Mother Goose Land.

It's indeed the most exciting time of year to come our way!

It's a Mother Goose celebration!

A Mother Goose celebration!

Hip, hooray! What a day! Give a rip, roar, rousing cheer!

ALL CITIZENS: (*A cheer.*) Yaaaay!

WIDOW PIPER: (*Sings.*) It's a Mother Goose celebration!

A fairytale creation!

Sing it loud, sing it proud.

The Mother Goose Carnival's here!

COMPANY: (*Sings.*) It's a Mother Goose celebration!

A Mother Goose celebration!

Hip, hooray! What a day! Give a rip, roar, rousing cheer!

(*A cheer.*) Yaaaay!

It's a Mother Goose celebration!

A fairytale creation!

Sing it loud, sing it proud.

The Mother Goose Carnival's here!

WIDOW PIPER: (*Speaks. To AUDIENCE MEMBERS.*) And now, ladies and gentleman, we proudly introduce you to Mother Goose Land's most prominent citizens. (*As she announces them, EACH CHARACTER parades by, except LITTLE BOY BLUE, who sleeps UPSTAGE LEFT, possibly near a haystack. Sings.*)

There's Jack and Jill and Jackie Horner,
Little Miss Muffet, too.

And who's that sleeping in the corner?

Why, it's Little Boy Blue.

Peter, Peter, Pumpkin Eater,
Jack Be Nimble, Jack Be Quick,
Red Riding Hood and Goldilocks,
Gathered around the candlestick.

COMPANY: (*Sings.*) It's a Mother Goose celebration!

A Mother Goose celebration!

What a sight! A delight! Give a rip, roar, rousing cheer!

(*A cheer.*) Yaaay!

It's a Mother Goose celebration,

All across the nation.

Sing it loud, sing it proud.

The Mother Goose Carnival's here!

WIDOW PIPER: (*Sings.*) There's Mistress Mary Quite Contrary,

All dressed up for you.

Handsome Alan, what a boy! (*ALL GIRLS sigh.*)

And here comes Betty Blue!

Mary and her little lamb,

Tom, Tom, the Piper's son,

Little Bo Peep who lost her sheep,

Then found them one by one. (*BARNABY, GONZORGO and RODERIGO come forward.*)

BARNABY: (*Speaks.*) And what about me, Widow Piper? I am surely one of Mother Goose Land's most celebrated citizens.

WIDOW PIPER: (*Speaks, with polite disdain.*) Ladies and gentleman, I give you Barnaby, the richest and most notorious man in Mother Goose Land. And his two—for want of a better word—associates, Gonzorgo and Roderigo. (*ALL THREE bow melodramatically to the AUDIENCE. The rest of the COMPANY boos and hisses and encourages the AUDIENCE to do the same. BARNABY, GONZORGO and RODERIGO sneer at the MOTHER GOOSE LAND CHARACTERS*)

and the AUDIENCE, then return to their previous spot ONSTAGE. Speaks.) Ladies and gentleman, boys and girls, last but not least, I give you the gypsies (*GYPSIES come forward and bow.*) and Mother Spider and her Spiderettes, who came all the way from Spider Forest, which lies between Mother Goose Land and the mysterious Toyland. (*They bow.*) On behalf of yours truly, Widow Piper, and the rest of the Mother Goose Land citizens, I welcome you to our Mother Goose Carnival!

COMPANY: (*Sings.*) It's a Mother Goose celebration!
A Mother Goose celebration!
Hip, hooray! What a day! Give a rip, roar, rousing cheer!
(*A cheer.*) Yaaaay!

It's a Mother Goose celebration!
A fairytale creation!
Sing it loud, sing it proud.
The Mother Goose Carnival's here!
The Mother Goose Land Carnival's here!
It's a Mother Goose celebration! (*MUSIC OUT. ALAN, MISTRESS MARY, GYPSIES, BARNABY, RODERIGO, GONZORGO and SPIDERS EXIT.*)

LITTLE MISS MUFFET: Lemonade! Ice cold lemonade! (*Cider! Hot cider!*)
Drink it with your curds and whey!

JACK: (*With bucket in hand.*) Try your luck—

JILL: Bob for apples here!

GOLDILOCKS: (*Crosses STAGE, carrying kettle of porridge.*) Hot porridge! Hot porridge! If the three bears liked it, you'll love it!

LITTLE JACK HORNER: (*Sticks his thumb into a pie as he calls.*) Slice of plum pie—only a dime!

LITTLE RED RIDING-HOOD: (*Carries an armful of hooded coats.*) Riding-hoods for sale, handmade and quality assured! Purchase a riding-hood of your own, any color but red!

JACK BE NIMBLE: (*Sports a burned hole in his breeches.*) Jump over the candlestick and win a pair of slightly used homespun breeches!

TOM: Pigs for sale! Pigs for sale!

LITTLE BO PEEP: (*Rushes over to MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB.*)
Mary, Mary, have you seen my sheep? The lamb judging is about to begin!

MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB: Lost your sheep, Bo Peep? Then I shall win!

LITTLE MISS MUFFET: *(With arm around LITTLE BETTY BLUE.)* Little Betty Blue has lost her holiday shoe.

LITTLE BETTY BLUE: *(Cries to LITTLE RED RIDING-HOOD.)* What shall I do? *(LITTLE RED RIDING-HOOD is about to speak when BARNABY ENTERS and slinks up behind LITTLE BETTY BLUE.)*

LITTLE RED RIDING-HOOD: *(Sees BARNABY.)* Well, I... I...

BARNABY: Give her another to match the other, and then she may walk on two.

LITTLE BETTY BLUE: *(Turns to respond.)* Do you have a shoe to match... oh! *(Screams and runs behind LITTLE RED RIDING-HOOD. PETER ducks into the pumpkin. JACK places a bucket over his head and all the other MOTHER GOOSE LAND CHARACTERS take cover.)*

BARNABY: What's the matter? I didn't mean to frighten you out of having fun.

TOM: Fat chance of that.

BARNABY: Did you say something, Tom?

TOM: No, no. This old pig squealed, is all.

BARNABY: Good. Because you see, today is a very special day. And I promised myself I would be nice. As nice as can be. I wouldn't want anyone not to have fun at the Mother Goose Land *(Christmas)* Carnival. After all, the proceeds go to a very worthy cause.

MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB: Yes, to line your pockets!

BARNABY: Silence, or I'll line these pockets with lambskin! *(MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB quickly hides her lamb behind her. Catches himself.)* So sorry. No, you little fools. The worthy cause is your very own Widow Piper. I hold the mortgage to her house. And since you live in her house, if I want I can throw you all out onto the street where you will be left to beg for your supper or die from hunger. I shan't care which.

OTHERS: *(Ad lib.)* Oh, no! What will we do?

TOM: You wouldn't do that! You can't do that!

BARNABY: *(Shouts and stomps his feet.)* I'll do as I please! *(Recovers.)* And what pleases me is to marry your sister, Mistress Mary. And when she marries me, the Widow Piper will get the benefits from the *(Christmas)* Carnival to pay off the mortgage, and you will get to keep a leaky roof over your heads!

MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB: Mistress Mary? She'll never marry you!

LITTLE BO PEEP: She loves your nephew, Alan.

BARNABY: A misguided child, to be sure. But that's no matter. Alan is dead.

TOM: Dead?

LITTLE BOY BLUE: No!

JACK BE NIMBLE: It can't be true!

GOLDILOCKS: Say it isn't so!

BARNABY: Ah, but it is so. A terrible tragedy. I heard about it only this morning. *(Takes out a handkerchief and blows his nose.)* I am heartbroken.

LITTLE BO PEEP: You have no heart!

BARNABY: And you have no sheep!

LITTLE BO PEEP: Oh!

BARNABY: I will miss him ever so much. He was my favorite nephew.

MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB: Your only nephew. And the only child of your only sister, who only died last month, leaving her only son a substantial inheritance. A little fishy, if you ask me.

BARNABY: Yes, fishy indeed.

MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB: What?

BARNABY: To have both died at sea. One's ship sank on a sail to England, and the other drowned just off the harbor. Drowned and eaten, I'm sure, by thousands of little fishies, never to be seen again. Pity.

LITTLE MISS MUFFET: So what are you planning to do with Alan's inheritance?

BARNABY: Keep it, of course. It's the law, you know.

JILL: The law never stood in your way when there was a penny to be made.

JACK: Get out of here, you old skinflint!

BARNABY: Oh, what a nice apple. Here, let me stuff it down your throat.

JACK: No thank you! *(Places the bucket over his head once more.)*

BARNABY: Oh, dear. Oh, my. I promised myself I'd be nice today, the day Mistress Mary agrees to marry me! So, enjoy the *(Christmas)* Carnival, boys and girls. I must go and prepare for my wedding! *(EXITS, skipping. The OTHERS crawl out from their hiding places.)*

TOM: You don't think it's true, do you?

MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB: About Alan drowning? No, of course not.

GOLDSLOCKS: Barnaby has been acting strange lately. Why, just last week he threatened to burn Old Mother Hubbard's bare cupboards, but then this morning she found a sack of flour and a brick of butter on the bottom shelf. He's up to something, that's for sure.

JILL: Something no good.

LITTLE MISS MUFFET: If he's done anything to harm Alan, I'll pour curds and whey over his head.

LITTLE BO PEEP: And I'll help you!

JACK: But first off, we've got to get to the bottom of this.

MISTRESS MARY: (*ENTERS, carrying a stool and a sign that reads "25¢ a kiss."*) The bottom of what, Jack?

JACK: Er, uh—

JILL: The bottom of the bucket.

JACK: The apple at the bottom. See? (*Shows her the bucket.*)

MISTRESS MARY: Oh, yes. I see.

OTHERS: (*Ad lib.*) Look, there's Mary. Mistress Mary! Hello, Mistress Mary!

MISTRESS MARY: Hello. Hello, everyone. I'm sorry I'm so late. I've been looking for Alan. Has anyone seen him?

LITTLE BOY BLUE: Haven't you heard? Alan is—

MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB: Is... down by the sea.

MISTRESS MARY: Down by the sea?

TOM: Taking a walk.

MISTRESS MARY: A walk? Why?

LITTLE MISS MUFFET: To... to look for sea shells.

MISTRESS MARY: Sea shells?

JACK/JILL: Cockleshells.

MISTRESS MARY: Cockleshells?

LITTLE BO PEEP: For your garden. To make it grow.

MISTRESS MARY: Oh. For my garden. Oh, how sweet! Maybe I can catch him. Will you get Mother to mind my booth? I'll hurry back as soon as I find him.

TOM: No rush.

MISTRESS MARY: See you later! I'm off to find my true love, Alan.

OTHERS: (*Ad lib.*) Yeah, so long. Bye. See you when you get back.
Goodbye, Mistress Mary.

LITTLE JACK HORNER: Why didn't you just tell her the truth?

MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB: Because we don't know the truth. I'd hate to think Alan might be dead. And it wouldn't be the first time Barnaby has tried to trick us. (*GONZORGO, with a rather large stomach, and RODERIGO, tall and lanky and wearing a striped shirt and a red cap, ENTER and begin to set up a "Fishing for Duckies" game booth while the MOTHER GOOSE LAND CHARACTERS discuss the situation.*)

LITTLE MISS MUFFET: I know. Do you remember the time he gave Jack and Jill two passes to Toyland in exchange for a pail of water?

JACK: I traded them to Jack and the Beanstalk for some beans, and we never saw him again.

JILL: I so wanted to see Toyland. The Toymaker, I hear, is the kindest old man, and the toys there are as big as life!

JACK: Yes, but there's magic there, and we've no business messing with magic.

JILL: You're just saying that because you traded our chance to see Toyland for a handful of beans!

JACK: I made some great burritos that night, and Jack never came back. Nobody knows what happened to him except that he went to Toyland.

MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB: Barnaby had something up his sleeve then and he does now. But what?

LITTLE JACK HORNER: (*Indicates RODERIGO.*) Hey, that man looks like a sailor. Maybe he's been down by the sea and can tell us if he's heard any news about Alan drowning.

LITTLE BO PEEP: It's worth a try.

TOM: I'll ask. (*To RODERIGO.*) You, sir. You in the red hat. Are you a sailor?

RODERIGO: Me, sir? Sailor? Uh, yes.

GONZORGO: (*Belts RODERIGO on the arm.*) No! He don't know nothing about sailing... or boats... or anything about water. Except little duckies in water. (*Points to sign.*)

RODERIGO: Little duckies in water! Poor little ducky can't swim. Poor, poor little ducky, Alan.

MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB: Did you say Alan?

GONZORGO: *(Pulls RODERIGO'S hat over his eyes.)* Alan? Who's Alan? Alvin. That's all he said. Alvin. His poor little ducky, Alvin, drowned yesterday in the sea.

MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB: A duck drowned?

GONZORGO: Sunk like cement. Straight to the bottom.

LITTLE BO PEEP: Then you came from the harbor?

GONZORGO: Harbor? What harbor?

LITTLE BO PEEP: The one at the end of the road. Where the ships dock.

RODERIGO: Ship's doc can't save him now! No one can save him now! Poor, poor little ducky, Alan!

GONZORGO: *(Strikes RODERIGO once again.)* Alvin.

RODERIGO: Alvin.

TOM: Are you sure you aren't a sailor?

GONZORGO: He's sure, kid. Now, go away... unless you know where we might find a business acquisition of ours, a Mr. Barnaby.

LITTLE MISS MUFFET: I'm afraid we do know Mr. Barnaby. He was here just a short while ago. He was on his way to get ready for his wedding.

GONZORGO: So, Mistress Mary agreed to marry him with Alan out of the way?

MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB: Alan?

GONZORGO: Alvin. The duck. Mr. Barnaby loved that duck. He said he couldn't share his love with anyone else until it was gone. And the little ducky drowned only yesterday.

RODERIGO: *(Cries.)* In the sea. In the deep blue sea. Poor little ducky! *(Cries all the more.)*

GONZORGO: *(To TOM.)* Here, kid, take this dollar and bring me back Mr. Barnaby.

TOM: Well, I'll take your dollar, but I think you overpaid for what you're getting. *(To OTHERS.)* Come on, let's go find old Barnaby. *(MOTHER GOOSE LAND CHARACTERS EXIT except TOM, LITTLE BO PEEP, MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB and JILL as WIDOW PIPER ENTERS.)*

WIDOW PIPER: 'Morning, children. Have we made good fare today?

LITTLE BO PEEP: Not quite as much as yesterday. Mistress Mary made the most with her kissing booth, but she's gone to look for Alan. (*GONZORGO elbows RODERIGO and mouths the name "Alan." RODERIGO instantly begins to cry.*)

MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB: She asked if you would mind her booth while she is gone.

WIDOW PIPER: Me? In the kissing booth? I'd be delighted! (*Begins to set up the booth.*)

TOM: Let's go. We've got to find Barnaby.

WIDOW PIPER: What do you want with Barnaby?

JILL: We don't want anything with Barnaby. But those two fellers over there paid Tom a whole dollar to fetch him back.

GONZORGO: Hey, kid! We ain't got all day!

JILL: And the fat one there is starting to get impatient.

GONZORGO: (*Picks JILL up threateningly.*) Fat? Who you calling fat? (*The MOTHER GOOSE LAND CHARACTERS back away.*)

WIDOW PIPER: (*Notices RODERIGO and GONZORGO for the first time.*) She didn't mean fat. She meant strong and handsome. (*Waves to RODERIGO, who looks around, then waves back. She points at his ring finger. He looks at his hand, front and back. Not understanding, he shrugs his shoulders.*) Hmmmm. You children run along now and help find Mr. Barnaby. I'll see to it these boys stay busy 'til you get back. (*TOM, LITTLE BO PEEP, MARY and JILL EXIT.*) So, don't just stand there, boys. Help a lonely widow set up her booth.

GONZORGO: Lonely?

RODERIGO: Widow?

GONZORGO: At your service, madam. (*GONZORGO and RODERIGO assist WIDOW PIPER in setting up the kissing booth.*) Kissing booth? Interesting choice for such a... ahem... lovely—

RODERIGO: Lovely?!

GONZORGO: (*Stomps on RODERIGO'S foot. RODERIGO responds with a howl.*) ...widow. No doubt your late husband left you very much endowed.

RODERIGO: (*Rubs his foot. Aside.*) The only thing endowed on that woman is her back side.

WIDOW PIPER: Oh, he left me well taken care of—a house with a mortgage and a fine family of fourteen children to care for.

GONZORGO: Fourteen children?! Madam, that's not a family, that's a flock!

WIDOW PIPER: And aren't you the lucky ones today? I've just cut my price in half.

GONZORGO: Your price for what?

WIDOW PIPER: (*Points at sign.*) Kisses, boys. As many as you want for half the price.

GONZORGO: I'll pay twice as much for half as many and not a penny more!

WIDOW PIPER: Then pucker up those lips, big boy, and get ready to dance.

GONZORGO: I don't dance, madam, but I do know how to run. Roderigo, let's get out of here.

RODERIGO: Right behind you, Gonzorgo! (*GONZORGO and RODERIGO EXIT one direction as BARNABY ENTERS from another.*)

WIDOW PIPER: Maybe I shouldn't have mentioned the children. Oh, look! There's Barnaby now. (*Places a scarf over her face and calls to BARNABY.*) Yoo-hoo! Mr. Barnaby! Over here, you great hunk of money... I mean, man.

BARNABY: (*To himself.*) Oh, It's Mistress Mary at her kissing booth. I'm in luck. (*Rushes to the booth. To WIDOW PIPER.*) Good afternoon, my precious. I'm so happy to find you here. And all alone.

WIDOW PIPER: Not half as happy as me.

BARNABY: (*Becomes exceptionally shy.*) And I'm so glad to see you wearing that veil. It makes this so much easier.

WIDOW PIPER: What so much easier, dear sir?

BARNABY: To speak of love.

WIDOW PIPER: Love?!

BARNABY: Haven't you ever been in love?

WIDOW PIPER: Oh, many times. Twice already today.

BARNABY: Well, I've only been in love once, with anything but money, that is. And, well, I was thinking that... excuse me, dear. Have you put on a little weight since yesterday?

PRODUCTION NOTES

PROPERTIES

ONSTAGE, ACT ONE, Scene One: Colorful booths—shoe, pumpkin, haystack, and the like (at least two booths should be empty); closed tent with sign reading “Fortunes Told Here” with a hidden EXIT leading BACKSTAGE; a fake plank (made of foam or balsa wood).

BROUGHT ON, ACT ONE, Scene One: Bucket (JACK); kettle (GOLDILOCKS); pie (LITTLE JACK HORNER); hooded coats (LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD); lamb (MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB); stool, sign reading “25¢ a kiss” (MISTRESS MARY); horn (LITTLE BOY BLUE); piece of pumpkin (PETER PETER PUMPKIN EATER); “Fishing for Duckies” sign and game items, roses (GONZORGO and RODERIGO); penny, long bill, papers (GONZORGO); box of candy with bow, a rose (BARNABY); slates and chalk (MOTHER GOOSE LAND CHARACTERS); book (LITTLE BO PEEP); bag and rope (GONZORGO or RODRERIGO).

ONSTAGE, ACT ONE, Scene Two: At least two trees, rail fence, representation of spider webs.

BROUGHT ON, ACT ONE, Scene Two: Web material (SPIDERS); suitcase full of clothing and a butcher knife (MISTRESS MARY); stick (GONZORGO).

ONSTAGE, ACT TWO: Giant toys—building blocks, playthings, massive red wagon, life-size dolls, including a captain with a sword, a drum majorette, a clown without a nose, a Harlequin; boxes lined with tissue paper with packing slips attached, box big enough for actors to get inside (NOTE: This box could have a hidden EXIT to BACKSTAGE so it appears that actors all fit into the box), rope.

BROUGHT ON, ACT TWO: Paper and writing utensil, basket with accessories including brown and white fur, pom poms, red nose, black buttons, glue, hammer, nails, large darning needle and thread (GRUMIO); paper to represent packing order (ELF ONE); staff, book (BARNABY); medal (MASTER TOYMAKER); toy machine [structure on wheels with an “outhouse” sign on the door. This structure should have a hidden EXIT leading to BACKSTAGE so all actors seem to fit into it at one time.] (MARMADUKE, GRUMIO); swords (TOY SOLDIERS); wagon (MARMADUKE).

COSTUMES

Traditional Mother Goose costumes are recommended. For instance, female characters should wear dresses, LITTLE BO PEEP should carry a staff, JACK BE NIMBLE should sport britches with a burn-spot on the seat, LITTLE RED RIDING-HOOD should wear a red riding-hood, of course, etc. BARNABY should be dressed as a traditional villain with black cape and top hat. GONZORGO could wear a plaid jacket with non-matching plaid pants and a derby hat. RODERIGO could wear white sailor pants that are several inches to short, a horizontally striped shirt and a red hat with a feather on one side. Be creative with costuming.

SOUND, LIGHTING AND SPECIAL EFFECTS

The Mother Goose Land Carnival should be as bright, colorful and festive as possible. Strings of Christmas lights can add a nice touch. The forest scene should be dimly lit to create an ominous mood. Directors are encouraged to be creative with the sound, lighting and special effects to depict the running toy machine. Machine sound effects are included on the pre-recorded music tracks, if desired. For smoke effects, a fog machine or dry ice work well.

CHRISTMASTIME PRESENTATION

This classic musical melodrama is especially popular around Christmastime, but can be presented at any time of year. A few line changes—all indicated in the script—are all that are needed to change a year-round sparkle to a Christmas twinkle... or vice versa!

We hope you've enjoyed this script sample.

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