

HANSEL AND GRETEL
or
The crumbs don't fall far from the loaf

A holiday panto
by
David Jacklin

FINAL

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CHARACTERS

Vidow Vinkle, mother of Hansel and Gretel, the Panto Dame
Gretel Vinkle, a bright young girl
Hansel Vinkle, not so much
Baron Vasteland, an Evil Baron and landlord and Royal Treasurer
Potz, Lady Malevola's henchman
Panz, Lady Malevola's henchman
Adalicia Biermann, the barmaid in Schplitzenpantz, the Ingenue or Principal Girl
Crown Prince Rupert, the Principal Boy
Lady Malevola, A beautiful woman with evil designs
Villagers of the Bavarian village of Schplitzenpantz
A bear (or a lion or a tiger or a badger)
Valiant, Prince Rupert's horse

SETTING

Somewhere in Bavaria
Fall – 1431

SCENES

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Act I
Scene 1 - The Village of Schplitzenpantz
Scene 2 - Inside the Vinkle hovel
Scene 3 - Outside the Vinkle hovel
Scene 4 - Deep in the Dark Forest
Scene 5 - A Village Inn
Scene 6 - Deeper in the Dark Forest
Scene 7 - A clearing in the Dark Forest

Act II

Scene 1 - The Village of Splitzenpantz
Scene 2 - Inside The Gingerbread House
Scene 3 - Deep in the Dark Forest
Scene 4 - Inside the Gingerbread House
Scene 5 - A clearing near the cottage of the Witch
Scene 6 - Inside the Gingerbread House
Scene 7 - The Village of Schplitzenpantz

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SONGS

ACT I

1: Overture

2: It's a Grimm Old Time In The Forest, The Villagers, Hansel, Gretel

3: Roll Up!, Potz, Panz, Lady Malevola

4: Boot Soup, Hansel, Gretel

5: Boot Soup 1st reprise, Hansel, Gretel

6: Boot Soup 2nd reprise, Hansel, Gretel

7: My Bonnie Lies Over The Ocean, Villagers, Adalicia

8: Ein Prosit, Potz, Panz

8a: Mysterioso Pizzicato

9. Oh, Children, Come Out, Lady Malevola

ACT II

10: Entr' Acte

11: It's Still a Grimm Old Time In The Forest, The Villagers

12. Into The Woods (Apologies to Mr. Sondheim)

13: I'm In Love, Rupert, Adalicia

14: Roll Up!, reprise, Potz, Panz, Hansel, Gretel

15: If You See A Shcary Buddy, Widow, Baron, Rupert, Adalicia

16: This Is The End, All

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HANSEL & GRETEL

A Panto

Act I

Scene 1 - The Village of Schplitzenpantz

(MUSIC: No. 1: OVERTURE.)

(VILLAGERS are crowding in the market; a sign reads: SCHPLITZENPANTZ Harvest Fair, 1431. The fall harvest is on display: a cabbage and a turnip. MUSIC: No. 2: IT'S A GRIMM OLD TIME IN THE FOREST.)

VILLAGERS: WELKOMMEN, ALLES JUNGEN
UND AUCH DEM MADSCHEN, ZU!
WELKOMMEN TO DER HERREN
UND TO DEM FRAUEN, TOO.

'WAY OUT HERE IN THE FOREST,
WE SCRAPE AND SCROUNGE FOR FOOD.
WE'RE STARVING IN THIS FOREST!
FORGIVE US IF WE'RE RUDE.

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IT'S A GRIMM OLD TIME IN THE FOREST.
IT'S A FIGHT JUST TO STAY ALIVE!
IT'S A GRIMM OLD TIME IN THE FOREST
AND WE JUST MAY NOT SURVIVE!

LIFE IS JUST SO STRESSFUL.
WE NEED A HOLIDAY!
A FRIENDLY LITTLE FROLIC,
THE GOOD OLD GERMAN WAY.

WE NEED A LITTLE RESPITE
FROM LIFE IN SCHPLITZENPANTZ,
SO, FIRST WE'LL VISIT POLAND
AND THEN WE'LL VISIT FRANCE!

IT'S A GRIMM OLD TIME IN THE FOREST.
IT'S A FIGHT JUST TO STAY ALIVE!
IT'S A GRIMM OLD TIME IN THE FOREST
AND WE JUST MAY NOT SURVIVE!

HANSEL: I'M HANSEL!

GRETEL: I'M GRETEL!

BOTH: UND VE LIVE IN SCHPLITZENPANTZ!
 VE'D BE HAPPY EVER AFTER,
 BUT VE HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE.

GRETEL: I'M GRETEL!

HANSEL: I'M HANSEL!

BOTH: UND HERE IN SCHPLITZENPANTZ,
 VE HAVE NO FOOD FUR EATIN',
 BUT VE ALL HAVE TIME TO DANCE!

(Dance interlude: a Bavarian clapping, stomping dance.)

ALL: IT'S A GRIMM OLD TIME IN THE FOREST.
 IT'S A FIGHT JUST TO STAY ALIVE!
 IT'S A GRIMM OLD TIME IN THE FOREST
 AND WE JUST MAY NOT SURVIVE!
 (WOMEN:) IT'S SO MEDIEVAL!
 (ALL:) AND WE JUST MAY NOT SURVIVE!

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(Music ends. WIDOW VINKLE speaks to the audience.)

WIDOW: Hello, children! I'm Vidow Vinkle. Can you say zat? ... No, not Vinkle!
 Vinkle! ... No, Vinkle! ... I sink you've got ze ears full of ze sauerkraut.
 I've been a vidow since mein poor husband died in childbirss – don't ask.
 I'm a poor abandoned vidow. (*Aww.*) I said, I'm a poor abandoned vidow.
 (*Aww!*) I'm more abandoned zan zat! (*AWWW!*) All right, I'm not zat
 abandoned. Now, venever I say "Hello, children!", I vant you all to shout
 "Hello, vidow!" Let's practice. Hello, children! (*Wait for reaction.*) Vat,
 did you all leave? Ve try again. Hello, children! (*Wait for reaction.*) It's
 like Meat Draw day at ze Legion*. So! Here ve are at ze Harvesht
 Feshtival, fourteen sirty-vun! Can you believe, fourteen sirty-vun already!
 Time just flies ven you don't have ze plague. You can see ze vonderful
 vegetables ve've grown here in Schplitzenpantz zis year – bose of zem.
 It's been a bad year for vegetables in Bavaria! Actually zis story is from
 Russia, but do you know how hard it is to find a rhyme for Petropavlovsk?

(Ed. Feel free to make up your own such similes.)*

A VILLAGER: Bavaria only rhymes with hysteria.

ANOTHER VILLAGER: And malaria.

VIDOW: Vell, zat's two. Ve have so much problems in Bavaria. Ze economy is in ze dumper! Ze old king believes in trickle down economics. Ve're still waiting for ze trickle. Ve have no money; ve have no food. I mean, ve live is ze middle of a bleedin' forest – how much food can you grow zere?

(Enter HANSEL and GRETEL)

Und zees are my two children: Hansel und Gretel.

GRETEL: Güten tag, mütter!

VIDOW: Gretel is schmart as a vip! I don't know how schmart a vip is, but she's at least as schmart as one.

HANSEL: Guten tag, vatter!

VIDOW: Hansel, not so much. I am your mütti, Hansel; not your vatti.

HANSEL: Zat's a matter of opinion.

VIDOW: If my children vere flowers, my Gretel would be a budding genius; my Hansel, a bloomin' idiot. Vat have you been doing, children?

GRETEL: Ve have been picking berries. Ve have got a blueberry und a raspberry und a schtrawberry.

HANSEL: Und I got a French beret. *(Putting on a beret.)* I are very funny, are I not?

VIDOW: You *am* very funny, Hansel. Vere's your grammar?

HANSEL: Vis my gramper?

VIDOW: *(To Audience.)* People often mistake his good nature for schtupidity – und, I can see zere point. You didn't venture into ze forest, did you, children?

GRETEL: Oh, no, mütti. You have often told us of ze dangers.

VIDOW: Ja, zere are lions und tigers und Republicans out zere. *(Ed. Pick your own political party.)*

HANSEL: Ze world is a schcary place, vatti.

VIDOW: Mütti, Hansel!

HANSEL: I sink I know vat I am saying.

(MUSIC No. 2a: OMINOUS MUSIC. The BARON approaches.)

VIDOW: *(To audience.)* Oh, it's ze evil Baron Vasteland! He's our landlord und, like all landlords, he's vicious und cruel und never comes to fix ze toilet ven it breaks. All ze same, he asks a lot for ze rent. Last veek, he asked on Monday, Tuesday, Vednesday, Ssursday ... Look at him. You may boo.

BARON: *(After booing.)* Vidow Vinkle!

VIDOW: Not Vinkle! Vinkle!

BARON: Sorry. You're behind in the rent on your hovel.

VIDOW: I know I've got a little behind.

BARON: Not from where I'm standing.

VIDOW: But, can't you overlook my arrears?

BARON: I can't do anything else, but you've still got to pay up. If I don't see your arrears within the week ...

VIDOW: Cheeky devil!

BARON: I'll seize your chattels.

VIDOW: Ooh, I like zat!

BARON: I'll throw you out of your hovel.

VIDOW: Oh, I don't like zat.

BARON: And I'll sell your children into indentured servitude!

VIDOW: Oh, no!

HANSEL: *(Stepping up to the BARON.)* You can't do that!

BARON: And why not?

HANSEL: I don't have dentures. I've got all my own teess.

GRETEL: You're really not helping, Hansel.

BARON: Now, listen to me, Widow Vinkle ...

THE VINKLES: Not Vinkle! Vinkle!

BARON: Sorry! You've got to the end of the week.

HANSEL: Vich day is zat exactly? Sometimes, calendars have Monday as ze first day of ze week and, sometimes, Sunday. It's very confusing.

BARON: *(A beat.)* Be honest, Widow, would it be such a great loss?

(The BARON exits.)

WIDOW: Oh, vat shall ve do? Ve'll be out of house und hovel.

HANSEL: I know, vatti. Let's sing a song! *(To audience.)* How about it? Do you vant to sing a song? *(The children will shout "Yes!")*

WIDOW: No, no, no! Ve're not singing a song. You can't sing for your supper ven zere is no supper. All I've found are zeze old potatoes. *(Pulling out two very suspect spuds.)*

GRETEL: Yuk! Zey are full of eyes.

HANSEL: Zat's good! Zey vill see us srough ze veek!

(WIDOW exits. HANSEL and GRETEL remain, along with the VILLAGERS.)

POTZ: This way! Come on, then. Watch yourself! This way.

(POTZ and PANZ enter pushing a sweets-laden cart.)

PANZ: Look out, now. Make room! Don't crowd now, don't crowd. *(He stops and sniffs.)* Herr Potz!

POTZ: Yes, Herr Panz?

PANZ: What is that smell? *(He looks suspiciously at POTZ.)*

POTZ: It wasn't me!

PANZ: Well, it wasn't me!

(They sniff again.)

BOTH: Oh! Children!

POTZ: Children are so ugly!

PANZ: Especially that one, right there! *(Pointing directly down off front of stage.)*

POTZ: That's not a child, Herr Panz.

PANZ: It's not?

POTZ: No, it's your reflection in the river.

PANZ: Let's get the show on the road, then. Here we go, Herr Potz!

POTZ: Here we go, Herr Panz!

(MUSIC: No. 3: ROLL UP! ROLL UP!)

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BOTH: ROLL UP! ROLL UP! ROLL UP!
COME AND SEE WHAT WE OFFER TODAY!
ROLL UP! ROLL UP! ROLL UP!
COME AND TASTE OUR DELICIOUS DISPLAY!
ROLL UP! ROLL UP! ROLL UP!
CAKES AND COOKIES AND SWEET CANDIES, TOO!
ROLL UP! ROLL UP! ROLL UP!
SEE WHAT WE HAVE FOR YOU!

PANZ: MY FRIEND, HERR POTZ ...

POTZ: AND MY FRIEND, HERR PANZ ...

BOTH: WILL SHOW YOU THE TASTIEST
TREATS IN THE LAND!
WE HAVE SCRUMPTIOUS DELIGHTS THAT WILL
MELT IN YOUR HAND!
SO GOOD THEY SHOULD HAVE
A BIG BRASS BAND!

POTZ: Kings and Queens, Princes and Princesses, Dukes and Duchesses, Lords
and Ladies and the Mayor of *(Insert name of local small town)*

him(*her*)self all swear by the quality of Lady Malevola`s sweeties.

PANZ: You lucky children get to taste Lady Malevola`s sweeties, yourself!

POTZ: She`s got the most scrumptious sweeties in the forest.

BOTH: Ladies und gentlemen, damen und herren, Fricken und Fracken, put your hands together and give it up for the Lady Malevola!

(MALEVOLA enters. She is a beautiful woman in a rich costume, all white.)

LADY MALEVOLA: COME UP, LITTLE CHILDREN, AND TASTE OF MY WARES
I`VE THE BEST SWEETIES YOU`LL FIND ANYWHERE
COME UP, LITTLE CHILDREN, AND SAMPLE MY TREATS
COOKIES AND CANDIES AND SUCH TEMPTING SWEETS,

ALL THREE: MY FRIEND, HERR POTZ AND MY FRIEND, HERR PANZ
WILL SHOW YOU THE TASTIEST TREATS IN THE LAND!
WE HAVE SCRUMPTIOUS DELIGHTS THAT WILL
MELT IN YOUR HAND!
SO GOOD THEY SHOULD HAVE
A BIG BRASS BAND!

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COOKIES AND CANDIES AND GUMDROPS AND DANDIES
AND LOLLIPOPS, ALL FOR FREE!

(HANSEL comes up to the wagon.)

PANZ: Would you like a free lollipop?

HANSEL: Vat vas zat vord again?

POTZ: Lollipop?

HANSEL: No, ze vun before zat.

PANZ: Free?

HANSEL: Zat`s ze vun!

POTZ: Here you are, my boy. A free lollipop.

HANSEL: Can I have vun for my sister?

PANZ: What is her name?

HANSEL: Gretel.

PANZ: Here you are.

HANSEL: Und vun for my ozzer sister?

POTZ: What's her name?

HANSEL: Re-Gretel.

POTZ: Here you go.

HANSEL: Und vun for my second cousin twice removed?

PANZ: That's pretty much a kissing cousin, isn't it?

HANSEL: Vell, I ask him, but I don't sink you're his type.

GRETEL: *(Joining him.)* Vat are you doing, Hansel?

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HANSEL: Look, Gretel. Zey are giving away free lollipops to all ze children!

GRETEL: Who are zey?

HANSEL: Zey are strangers to me!

GRETEL: Free candy! From strangers! Vat could go wrong vis zat?

LADY MALEVOLA: Here you are, my dear. Take two. You must be this young fellow's sister. Are you Gretel or Re-gretel?

GRETEL: You'll have to ask our muzzer.

(ADALICIA comes to them and pulls GRETEL back.)

ADALICIA: Hansel! Gretel! Come away from there! What are you doing with these children?

LADY MALEVOLA: What's it to you? Dear.

ADALICIA: It seems to be a little suspicious, if you ask me.

LADY MALEVOLA: Well, as it happens, no one asked you. Dear.

ADALICIA: And no one asked you to come here and hand these out.

LADY MALEVOLA: Why not? It's a free country.

ADALICIA: No, it's not. It's fifteenth century Germany. It's pretty suspicious, you trying entice children like this.

LADY MALEVOLA: Well, we'll have to do something about that. Potz! Panz! *(They huddle.)* Do something about that.

(POTZ and PANZ slowly back ADELICIA into a corner.)

POTZ/PANZ: We hate like heck to see you go,
We love to have you here.
But if you know what's good for you,
You'd better disa- ... SCRAM!

ADALICIA: Hansel! Gretel! Come with me! Now!

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(The three exit. POTZ and PANZ high five each other.)

LADY MALEVOLA: Ha, ha, ha! We'll have children hanging from the rafters! Ha, ha, ha! And, I won't forget those two, either. Hansel – and Re-Gretel!

(The trio laugh evilly, then stop, realize the lights are still up, laugh again, stop, then simply walk away. MUSIC NO. 3A: 1ST SCENE CHANGE.)

END OF SCENE

HANSEL & GRETEL

A Panto

Act I

Scene 2 - Inside the house of Hansel & Gretel

(The Vinkle hovel. VIDOW VINKLE stirs a large pot.)

VIDOW: Hello, children! ... Welcome to our hovel. Some people mistake zis for a shack, but it's definitely a hovel. Ve've got all modern conveniences here: a door, a vindow, a floor. Ve even have a roof over our heads until ze Baron srows us out.

I have hed a hard life. I ran away from home ven I vas very young und my parents never found me. In fact, zey never looked. Zen I met my husband, Villie. Villie Vinkle. He vas so schmall, I called him Vee Villie Vinkle – but zat's anoizzer schtory. Und zen he died in childbirss – don't ask – leaving me vis two children who eat cereal vis a dust-pan. Und now, ze evil Baron Vasteland is going to srow us out of our hovel! I don't know vat I shall do! *(Crying.)* Ah, ha, ha – ah, ha, ha!

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(VIDOW cries, using squirting bulbs to shoot tears at the audience. (Ed. Believe it or not, infant nostril-sucking bulbs work very well for this. New ones are suggested.) HANSEL and GRETEL enter.)

GRETEL: Mütti, ve have had nossing to eat today!

HANSEL: Ja, ve are schtarving!

GRETEL: Literally.

VIDOW: Oh, my dears, everyssing is so expensive. Grapes have gone up – nearly two dollars a bottle! Eggs keep going up. Ze hens don't like zat. I could only buy six eggs.

HANSEL: Vell, let's eat zem in front of ze mirror.

VIDOW: Vy?

HANSEL: Zen ve'll have a whole dozen!

GRETEL: Hansel, you've decided to opt out of ze Renaissance, haven't you?

HANSEL: Vat's a Renaissance?

VIDOW: Children, I have a real treat for lunch – something you’ve never had!

GRETEL: Is it viener schnitzel?

VIDOW: No, ve don’t have any vieners.

GRETEL: Is it hossenpfepfer?

VIDOW: No, ve don’t have any hossens.

HANSEL: Is it schpaghetti?

VIDOW: Vat’s schpaghetti?

HANSEL: Long, schlurpy noodles in tomato sauce.

VIDOW: No, Marco Polo hasn’t brought noodles back from China yet.

GRETEL: Zen, vat is it, mutti?

VIDOW: *(Ladling a wet boot out of the pot.)* Boot soup!

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HANSEL/GRETEL: Boot soup! Delicious!

(MUSIC: No. 4: BOOT SOUP.)

BOOT SOUP! BOOT SOUP!
BOOT SOUP IS YUMMY UND BOOT SOUP IS GRAND.
BOOT SOUP! BOOT SOUP!
UND OUR DEAR MUMMY MAKES ZE BEST IN ZE LAND!
BOOT SOUP! BOOT SOUP!

VIDOW: Vait! Vait! Schtop! Schtop ze music!

(The music stops.)

Ve don’t have time for ze singing. Und some of us don’t have ze talent for ze singing – but I’m not saying who.

HANSEL/GRETEL: But vatti (mütiti)!

VIDOW: No, ve’ve got too much plot to get to. Ve haven’t even got to ze part vere ze evil Baron Vasteland comes to take you away into ze Dark Forest.

GRETEL: Ze evil Baron Vasteland comes to take us away into ze Dark Forest?

VIDOW: Ja, vat did I just say?

HANSEL: “Ze evil Baron Vasteland comes to take you away into ze Dark Forest.”

GRETEL: How do you know he’s going to do zat?

VIDOW: I read ze shcript. Didn’t you?

(MUSIC NO. 4A: OMINOUS MUSIC.)

In fact, if I know my musical motifs, zat’s him now. *(To the audience.)*
You may boo, if you like.

BARON: *(Enters and responds to audience boos.)* Music to my ears. Vidow Vinkle!

THE VINKLES: Not Vinkle! Vinkle!

BARON: Sorry. It’s the end of the week – and I’ve not laid eyes on your arrears.

VIDOW: Well, dinner and a show might change zat.

BARON: You owe me six months back rent, Vidow.

VIDOW: You can’t srow us out. We’ve got sqvatter’s rights.

BARON: Looks more like rickets to me.

VIDOW: How about zis? If you forget half ze rent, I’ll forget ze ozzer half.

BARON: Let's see some cash, Vidow.

VIDOW: I haven’t got a penny. I’m flat busted. *(She stops and picks out someone in the audience.)* Ve don't all share your filssy mind, you know. *(To BARON.)* I'm just a poor abandoned widow! *(Aww!)* A little more abandonment, please. *(Awww!)* Perfect.

BARON: You may be an abandoned widow, but I’m an evil landlord. *(Boo!)* I’m more evil than that! *(BOO!)* Perfect. So! I am going to seize all you have.

THE VINKLES: Oh!

BARON: Throw you out into the cold!

THE VINKLES: Oh!

BARON: But first, I'm going to take your children away!

VIDOW: *(To HANSEL and GRETEL.)* Told you.

HANSEL/GRETEL: Oh!

VIDOW: Vy? Vy?

BARON: Because, if I didn't, the show would only be twenty minutes long.

GRETEL: I sought it vas because you vere a deshpicable human being vis no iota of kindness or charity vissin your vizeden, blackened heart.

BARON: That, too. So, shall we?

VIDOW: *(On her knees.)* No! No! You can't! You can't tear my dear children from my bosom! I beg you! I beseech you! I ...

HANSEL: It's all right, vatti. Ve don't mind.

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VIDOW: Shut up! Zis is my big dramatic shcene! Vere vas I? I beg you! I beseech you! I ... somessing else schtarting vis "B" you!

BARON: Your pleas fall upon deaf ears, Vidow.

HANSEL: Have you been to an ear doctor?

BARON: Whatever you're taking to keep you stupid – it's working. I shall take these children into the Dark Forest and sell them into indentured servitude.

HANSEL: I told you, I don't have dentures!

BARON: I may have to give *that* one away. Line up, alphabetically by height!

VIDOW: Vait! It's a long journey srough ze Dark Forest. Let me give zem something to eat on ze vay.

BARON: Very well. Be quick!

VIDOW: Come, children! A nice bowl of boot soup for each of you!

HANSEL/GRETEL: Boot soup! Delicious!

(MUSIC: No. 5: BOOT SOUP, 1ST REPRISE.)

BOOT SOUP! BOOT SOUP!
BOOT SOUP IS YUMMY UND BOOT SOUP IS GRAND.
UND OUR DEAR MUMMY MAKES ZE BEST IN ZE LAND!
BOOT SOUP! BOOT SOUP!

BARON: Stop it! Stop the music! (*The music stops.*) Give them a loaf of bread.

VIDOW: All ze bread ve have is zis nasty, dried up old loaf zat's been here since ze first dress rehearsal. Here you are, Hansel. You take zis und be careful of it. You may have to *crumble it up* to eat it, but be sure you don't *drop ze crumbs on ze pass along ze vay*.

HANSEL: Don't worry, vatti. I von't drop a single crumb.

VIDOW: (*To audience.*) Like talking to a can of paint.

GRETEL: Don't vorry, mütti. I heard *every vord* you said.

VIDOW: Oh, zat's my schmart girl!

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BARON: All right. Let's go. And: *links, rechts, links, rechts ...*

VIDOW: Goodbye, children! Don't forget to write!

(MUSIC: No. 6: BOOT SOUP, 2ND REPRISE/2ND SCENE
CHANGE. *They exit the hovel and the scene changes to:*)

HANSEL & GRETEL

A Panto

Act I

Scene 3 - Outside the hovel of the Vinkles

BARON: *(As they march on.) Ein, svei, drei, vier! Ein, svei, drei, vier!*

HANSEL/GRETEL: *(As they march.)* BOOT SOUP! BOOT SOUP!
BOOT SOUP IS YUMMY UND BOOT SOUP IS GRAND.

*(The BARON, HANSEL and GRETEL march in and exit.
The VIDOW enters and waves goodbye to them.)*

BARON: *(Off.)* Stop that! I said stop it! I hate singing!

VIDOW: *(To audience.)* Zey grow up so quickly und zen, vun day, zey leave you.
But remember: no matter how poor you are, no matter how lonely, no
matter how dejected, no matter how ugly, zere's always somevun vorse off
zan you. *(Pointing.)* Except in your case. I go inside und cry, now.

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*(VIDOW cries, again using squeeze bulbs to spray the
audience, and exits. PRINCE RUPERT enters and knocks.)*

(Off.) Zere's nobody home!

RUPERT: Nobody home? Don't be ridiculous. You're here, aren't you?

VIDOW: *(Off.)* I ... oh, yes, so I am. *(VIDOW comes out of the hovel, takes a look at
RUPERT and falls into his arms.)* Vere have you been all my life?

RUPERT: Well, for the first half of it, I wasn't even born.

VIDOW: Ven do ve get married?

RUPERT: Don't you think you're a little old for me?

VIDOW: Seems perfect from here.

RUPERT: I mean, I'm a lot younger than you.

VIDOW: Not in ze dark, dearie.

RUPERT: I am not marrying you!

VIDOW: Your loss, as my husband could tell you, if he hadn't died in childbirss.

RUPERT: Childbirss?

VIDOW: Don't ask. *(Standing up.)* Push off. You're making ze place look bad.

RUPERT: Look bad? It's a shack!

VIDOW: It may be a shack to you, but it's a hovel to us! *(She goes back inside. RUPERT knocks again. Off.)* Zere's nobody home!

RUPERT: But you're at home!

VIDOW: *(Off.)* Oh, so I am. *(She comes back out.)* Haven't ve met before?

RUPERT: Just a moment ago!

VIDOW: No. Doesn't ring a bell, but I must say you do! Ding, dong! So, vat do you say, handsome? Risk it for a biscuit?

RUPERT: I don't know what to say.

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VIDOW: Say "ja" und I'll be yours forever.

RUPERT: What?

VIDOW: Don't say "vat". Say "ja". *(Pinching his mouth into "Ja.")* Ja, ja, ja, ja, ja! Ven can ve set a date?

RUPERT: A date? Can't we talk on Tinder for a while first?

VIDOW: You're tinder for my fire.

RUPERT: Look, all I did was fall off my horse on the way from the castle.

VIDOW: You are from ze kessle? Oh, I can see ze invite: "Princess-to-be Vinkle requests ze pleasure of your ..."

RUPERT: Company?

VIDOW: All right, let's say "company." *(Pulling him into a dip.)* Zen let's say "I do".

RUPERT: Princes can't just marry any old body – and I do mean, old body.

VIDOW: *(Standing.)* Zen, I'll just go inside und console myself vis a tequila. I'll make it a triple. Vun tequila, two tequila, sree tequila, floor! *(She goes in and slams the door. RUPERT knocks again. Off:)* Like I said, zere's no vun home!

(RUPERT is left standing outside. ADALICIA enters.)

ADALICIA: Oh, were you looking for Vidow Vinkle?

RUPERT: Vidow Vinkle?

ADALICIA: No, not Vinkle. Vinkle.

RUPERT: Sorry. I've lost my horse in the woods. His name is Valiant.

ADALICIA: Well, it's stew by now. We're pretty hungry around here. Who are you?

RUPERT: I am the Crown Prince Rupert.

ADALICIA: Prince Rupert! *(She curtseys, then straightens up.)* You know, you're a lot shorter in person than you are on the coins.

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RUPERT: So, I've been told. And your name, my girl?

ADALICIA: I am Adalicia, your highness.

RUPERT: A delicia what?

ADALICIA: Adalicia Biermann. Father was a beer-man. Mother drank schnapps.

RUPERT: And, what are you doing here at the edge of the wood, Adalicia?

ADALICIA: I am looking for my little friends, Hansel and Gretel.

RUPERT: Hansel and Gretel?

ADALICIA: Hansel and Gretel Vinkle.

RUPERT: Vinkle?

ADALICIA: That's right. Vinkle. They live here in this hovel.

RUPERT: I thought it was a shack.

ADALICIA: No, it's clearly a hovel. And, what are you doing here, your highness?

RUPERT: I'm making a Royal Inquiry. The King and I went to inspect the Treasury.

ADALICIA: And?

RUPERT: And found it empty. Every chest of gold, every casket of jewels, every sock stuffed with pennies – is gone!

ADALICIA: Oh, no, it isn't!

RUPERT: Oh, yes, it is! The doors of the treasury were locked; the bars unbent; the windows sealed. It's disappeared like magic!

ADALICIA: Oh, no, it isn't!

RUPERT: *(Getting the audience to join him.)* Oh, yes, it is!

ADALICIA: But, that means ...

RUPERT: The country is bankrupt!

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ADALICIA: Oh, no, it isn't!

RUPERT: I think we've exhausted that bit. Who could have done it?

ADALICIA: Who had the keys?

RUPERT: Our family's most faithful friend, the Baron Vasteland. *(MUSIC NO. 6A: OMINOUS MUSIC.)*

ADALICIA: Baron Vasteland! That nasty old ...

RUPERT: So ... !

ADALICIA: ... and so.

RUPERT: ... you see, it had to be magic of some kind. I am riding through the land to find a clue as to what happened. And, then I was in the deepest part of the Dark Forest and I fell off my horse.

ADALICIA: You fell off your horse.

RUPERT: And, I found my way here.

ADALICIA: You found your way here.

RUPERT: And met you.

ADALICIA: And met me.

(They look moonie-eyed. VIDOW VINKLE enters again.)

VIDOW: Are you schtill here? Knock, knock!

RUPERT: Who's there?

VIDOW: Hugo.

RUPERT: Hugo who?

VIDOW: Hugo go 'vay now. Schtop cluttering up my doorway.

ADALICIA: Widow Vinkle, I want to take Hansel and Gretel to the big town sock wash.

RUPERT: A sock wash?

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ADALICIA: The biggest event of the year. We always finish the harvest festival with a community laundry day. Once a year, whether our clothes need it or not.

RUPERT: You're very forward thinking around here.

ADALICIA: Well, it's 1431. It's not the Dark Ages. So where are the children?

VIDOW: Oh, my dear, zey are gone!

ADALICIA: Gone?

VIDOW: Gone! Ze Evil Baron has taken zem to sell into indentured servitude.

ADALICIA: What! Why?

VIDOW: To pay off ze back rent on my hovel.

RUPERT: You must have huge arrears.

VIDOW: Cheeky!

ADALICIA: Where has the Evil Baron taken them?

VIDOW: Into ze dark forest.

RUPERT: He's well within his rights as an Evil Baron. Which Evil Baron is it?

VIDOW: Baron Vasteland. (*MUSIC NO. 6A-2: OMINOUS MUSIC.*)

RUPERT: Vasteland? Well, there you go. He's one of my father's most trusted advisors. He's in charge of the Royal Treasury.

ADALICIA: And where is the Royal Treasury now?

RUPERT: (*Beat.*) Oh, right.

VIDOW: He took ze children deep into ze Dark Forest. Nobody comes out of zere.

RUPERT: Maybe they'll meet my horse in there.

ADALICIA: Stu?

RUPERT: Valiant!

ADALICIA: Oh, right.

VIDOW: Und your horse can lead zem out of ze forest?

RUPERT: Stranger things have happened.

VIDOW: Zat tangerine becoming president, for vun.

ADALICIA: Perhaps someone in town has some idea of where they may be. Let's go back to town. The washing festival is being held at the tavern this afternoon.

VIDOW: Is it vashing day already? It seems like just last monss I vashed.

(They all exit. MUSIC No. 6B: VALIANT, 1ST TROT-THROUGH. A pantomime horse, wearing a medieval- style saddle but no bridle, trots across the stage.)

END OF SCENE

HANSEL & GRETEL

A Panto

Act I

Scene 4 - Deep in the Dark Forest

(Enter the BARON, HANSEL and GRETEL. The children are very tired.)

BARON: Come on, you two! We've only come eight miles into the forest. You kids today have no stamina. Why, when I was a boy, we walked eleven miles just to get to the outhouse – usually running the first half.

GRETEL: Oh, no, you didn't.

BARON: Oh, yes, I did.

GRETEL: *(And audience.)* Oh, no, you didn't!

BARON: Oh, yes, I did.

GRETEL: *(And audience.)* Oh, no, you didn't!

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BARON: Is there an echo around here?

HANSEL: Ve've never been zis far into ze Dark Forest, before.

BARON: *(Aside.)* That's what I was counting on. I'll leave them here where they must fall into my evil partner's hands. I love it when a plan comes together. *(To HANSEL and GRETEL.)* Now, I must go see a man about a dog – or a dog about a man. So, you kids just sit down and eat your lunch.

HANSEL: Lunch? All ve've got left is zis crust of bread. *(He holds up an end crust of the loaf that VIDOW gave them.)*

BARON: What, you ate all your lunch already?

HANSEL: No, ve crumbled it all up and dropped it ...

GRETEL: *(Clapping her hand over HANSEL's mouth.)* ... right down our gullets! Didn't ve, Hansel? *(Nodding vigourously.)*

HANSEL: *(Slowly nodding along with her.)* No! I dropped zem all along ze trail...

GRETEL: *(Hand over his mouth.)*...mix! Ze trail mix ve had – vis our bread!

HANSEL: *(To audience.)* I sink she is telling vun big vopper.

BARON: All right. Just sit here and wait – for me to return.

GRETEL: Vere is zis man vis his dog?

HANSEL: Or zis dog vis his man?

BARON: It's just a few miles west-north of the east-south corner of the forest.

HANSEL: *(To audience.)* Zumbody else is telling voppers.

GRETEL: Never mind, Hansel. Ve just sit here und vait for ze nice Baron to return.

BARON: Good. *(He starts to exit, but stops.)* And don't try to follow me, either.

GRETEL: Oh, no, ve von't.

BARON: Good. *(He starts to exit, but stops.)* And just stay right here.

GRETEL: Oh, ve vill.

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BARON: Good. *(He starts to exit, but stops.)* And ...

HANSEL: Vill you just go, already?

(The BARON exits. HANSEL sits down to wait.)

GRETEL: *(Ready to run.)* Vat are you doing? Let's go!

HANSEL: But, he's coming back – vis a dog!

GRETEL: Mein lieber brüder, he's not coming back.

HANSEL: He's not?

GRETEL: No! He's leaving us in ze forest to die.

HANSEL: *(Pause.)* Zat's not very nice. *(Pause.)* Zat's downright evil!

GRETEL: Of course, it is. He's a landlord.

HANSEL: So, he's not coming back?

GRETEL: No!

HANSEL: *(Pause.)* Und ze dog?

GRETEL: Zere is no dog!

HANSEL: Zat's disappointing. All right, vere are ve going?

GRETEL: Home!

HANSEL: Home? Vat's so great about home? Ve live in a hovel!

GRETEL: Ja, but as hovels go, it's a nice hovel.

HANSEL: So, vich vay is it?

GRETEL: Hansel, vy have you been dropping ze bread crumbs all srough ze forest?

HANSEL: Planting bread-fruit?

GRETEL: So ve can follow zem home!

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HANSEL: Oh! Zat vas very clever of me!

GRETEL: Ja, ja, clever. Now ve must get going. Zese voods are filled vis lions und tigers und badgers.

HANSEL: Oh, my!

GRETEL: Now vere did you drop ze last crumbs?

HANSEL: Right over here. I mean, over here. No, here. No, it vas here.

GRETEL: You're sure?

HANSEL: Abscholutely. I remember zis tree. Or maybe it vas zat vun.

GRETEL: Ve go zis vay.

(They exit. A few seconds pass, and they re-enter opposite.)

I don't see any bread crumbs.

HANSEL: Maybe it vas zis vay.

(They exit. A few seconds pass, and they re-enter opposite.)

GRETEL: Zis vay!

(They exit. A few seconds pass, and they re-enter opposite.)

(GRETEL turns and runs off the same way. HANSEL runs off the other way. After a second, they each appear opposite to where they entered.)

(They each turn around and run off the same way they just entered. After a moment, they both re-appear from the same side they just left from.)

GRETEL grabs HANSEL's hand and pulls him off in one direction. They re-appear opposite, with HANSEL pulling GRETEL.)

(As they stand there, a bear (or a lion or a tiger or a badger) comes on opposite. They scream and run off. The bear runs off the other way.)

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(After a moment, HANSEL and GRETEL re-appear, running, followed by the bear (or lion or tiger or badger. All three run off the opposite way.)

(After a moment, the three re-enter, with the bear (or etc.) being chased by HANSEL and GRETEL. They run off.)

(After a moment, HANSEL and GRETEL come through, hand-in-hand, on tip-toe. They sneak through and off, hand-in-hand. After a moment, the bear comes on, sneaking on tip-toe. He exits after them.)

(After a moment, GRETEL sneaks through without HANSEL. She exits. After a moment, the bear sneaks through and exits. After another moment, HANSEL sneaks through and exits.)

(After a moment, HANSEL sneaks through, with the bear, hand-in-paw. They exit. After a moment, GRETEL comes in the other way, with the bear, hand-in-paw. They exit.)

(HANSEL enters, backing up. The bear enters opposite, backing up. They get to centre, stop, circle each other and exit the other way without seeing each other.)

(GRETEL enters, backing up. The bear enters opposite, backing up. They get to centre, stop, circle each other and exit the other way without seeing each other.)

(HANSEL and GRETEL back on from opposite sides. They reach centre and back into each other, scream and run off.)

(The bear enters to centre. HANSEL and GRETEL enter from opposite side, backing in to centre. They back into the bear, turn, scream and run off. The bear shakes his paws in frustration and starts off, when he stops and sees the children in the audience. He rubs his paws and his tummy, then starts for the audience. HANSEL runs in.)

HANSEL: Hey, Boo-boo! Your sister schtole pick-a-nick baskets!

(The bear gets angry, forgets the audience and runs after HANSEL, who runs off. The bear stops, frustrated. GRETEL enters opposite.)

GRETEL: Hey, Paddington! Your fazzer vas a pooh-bear!

(The bear gets even more angry and runs after GRETEL, who runs off. The bear stops, frustrated. HANSEL and GRETEL re-appear, opposite to where they came off.)

HANSEL/GRETEL: Hey, Schmokey! Your muzzer vas a panda!

(The bear suddenly bursts out crying and runs away.)

HANSEL: Ooh, hit a nerve zere. *(Alternative line: You see, children? Bullying hurts– but not as much as big, sharp nasty bear’s teess.)*

GRETEL: Hansel, I can't find any bread-crumbs!

HANSEL: I dropped zem along ze path all ze vay. Big, tasty bread crumbs lying there in plain sight. You can't miss zem. Vy, even a bird could see zem.

GRETEL: Oh, no!

HANSEL: Oh, yes!

GRETEL Oh, NO!

HANSEL: Oh, yes! *(Beat.)* Oh, yes, vat?

GRETEL: Ze birds have eaten ze bread crumbs!

HANSEL: Oh, zat's nice, feeding ze birdies.

GRETEL: Feeding zem our vay home!

HANSEL: Ooh, zat's not so nice.

GRETEL: Hansel, is it possible you're adopted?

HANSEL: Nope, I am my fazzer's son!

GRETEL: Ja, you are. Now, ve are loscht in ze dark forest! Loscht und alone!

HANSEL: Oh, no! Vat should ve do? Maybe ve should sing a song! *(To audience.)* Children, do you vant to sing a song? *(The audience hopefully responds "yes".)*

GRETEL: No! Ve're not singing a song. Zis vay!

(They exit, hand-in-hand. MUSIC 6C: 3rd SCENE CHANGE.)

END OF SCENE

HANSEL & GRETEL

A Panto

Act I

Scene 5 - A Village Inn

(The VILLAGERS gather, with baskets of laundry.)

VILLAGERS: *(Severally.)* Happy Washing Day! Washing Day greetings, Hans. Happy Washing Day, Gertrude. Fröliche Waschen Tag, Hermann! Etc.

A VILLAGER: It's a perfect Washing Day! The weather is just right.

2nd VILLAGER: But, we can't have a Washing Day without a song.

3rd VILLAGER: No! Adalicia! Adalicia! Where is she?

(ADALICIA enters.)

VILLAGERS: *(Severally.)* There she is! Adalicia! Over here! Etc.

A VILLAGER: Come, Adalicia. You must sing us a song for Washing Day.

ADALACIA: A song for Washing Day?

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VILLAGERS: *(Severally.)* Yes, yes. Etc.

ADALICIA: Oh, very well. After all, we did rehearse it.

*(MUSIC: No. 7: MY BONNIE LIES OVER THE OCEAN.
The VILLAGERS go down into the audience to encourage participation.)*

All right, everyone! We're going to sing a song for Washing Day! And you're going to help. You all know this song, so you can sing along on the choruses with us. Let's try it! Ready?

WITH ALL: BRING BACK, BRING BACK,
BRING BACK MY BONNIE TO ME, TO ME.
BRING BACK, BRING BACK,
BRING BACK MY BONNIE TO ME.

ADALICIA: That was ... !... all right. But you can do better! Let's sing it once again, and this time, really sing! Ready?

WITH ALL: BRING BACK, BRING BACK,
BRING BACK MY BONNIE TO ME, TO ME.
BRING BACK, BRING BACK,
BRING BACK MY BONNIE TO ME.

ADALICIA: That was great! Now, this time, whenever you say a word starting with “B”, if you’re sitting, you’re going to stand and if you’re standing, you’re going to sit. Got it? One more time!

WITH ALL: BRING BACK, BRING BACK,
BRING BACK MY BONNIE TO ME, TO ME.
BRING BACK, BRING BACK,
BRING BACK MY BONNIE TO ME.

ADALICIA: Now you’ve got it! I’ll sing a verse, then you sing a chorus – and remember: up and down on your “B”s!

I ONCE LOVED A SAILOR NAMED FREDDIE,
BUT FREDDIE SAILED OFF ON THE SEA,
AND WHEN HE RETURNED, PRIMED AND READY,
MY FREDDIE FOUND EDDIE WITH ME.

WITH ALL: Bring back, bring back,
Bring back my bonnie to me, to me.
Bring back, bring back,
Bring back my bonnie to me.

ADALICIA: That’s it! Next time, though, we’ll sing it faster, so be ready!

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I LOVED A YOUNG TAILOR NAMED JOHNNY,
WHOSE STITCHES WERE WOND’ROUS TO SEE.
WHEN JOHNNY WAS DONE STITCHING BRITCHES,
MY JOHN STITCHED A CROSS-STITCH FOR ME.

Faster now!

WITH ALL: BRING BACK, BRING BACK,
BRING BACK MY BONNIE TO ME, TO ME.
BRING BACK, BRING BACK,
BRING BACK MY BONNIE TO ME.

ADALICIA: Now, I heard the kids singing, but not the adults. Next time, I want to hear the adults, too!

I MET A TALL SOLDIER NAMED WALTER,
AND WALT WAS THE VAULTER FOR ME.
BUT HE UP AND RAN TO GIBRALTAR,
INSTEAD OF THE ALTAR WITH ME.

Faster!

WITH ALL: BRING BACK, BRING BACK,
BRING BACK MY BONNIE TO ME, TO ME.
BRING BACK, BRING BACK,

BRING BACK MY BONNIE TO ME.

ADALICIA: It's like the Mormon Tabernacle Choir – if they were singing in the shower.

I NEXT MET A GROCER NAMED MURRAY,
WHO SOLD ALL HIS GOODS BY THE POUND.
BUT WHEN HE WAS DONE, MURRAY'D HURRY
RIGHT BACK TO THE HER HE HAD FOUND.

Faster!

WITH ALL I: BRING BACK, BRING BACK,
BRING BACK MY BONNIE TO ME, TO ME.
BRING BACK, BRING BACK,
BRING BACK MY BONNIE TO ME.

ADALICIA: Bring it home, now!

WITH ALL: *(Original tempo.)* BRING BACK MY BONNIE TO ME!

ADALICIA: Oh, lovely!

PERUSAL COPY ONLY - CONTACT AUTHOR FOR RIGHTS *(Cheers. VIDOW VINKLE enters with RUPERT.)*

VIDOW: Hello, children! *(Wait for response.)* It sounds like a Boxing Day sale at Costco. *(Or similar in your area of the world.)*

ADALICIA: *(Pushing VIDOW aside.)* Friends! Friends! Listen to me. Vidow Vinkle has terrible news.

VILLAGERS: *(Severally.)* Oh, no! What's happened? Etc.

ADALICIA: *(Pushing VIDOW aside.)* Her dear children Hansel and Gretel are gone.

VILLAGERS: *(Severally.)* Oh! No! Etc.

ADALICIA: *(Pushing VIDOW aside.)* We all must help her find them.

VILLAGERS: *(Severally.)* Sure! Absolutely! Right! Etc.

VIDOW: *(Avoiding ADALICIA's push.)* Oh, sank you, friends. Zey vere taken from me by Baron Vasteland.

VILLAGERS: *(Together.)* Vasteland?

VIDOW: No, Vasteland.

VILLAGERS: *(Together.)* Oh!

VIDOW: Und he's taken zem into ze dark forest.

VILLAGERS: *(Together.)* Ah!

VIDOW: So, who vill go into ze Dark Forest vis us und fight ze Evil Baron?

VILLAGERS: *(Severally.)* Well... I, uhm... I've ... maybe not ... Etc.

1st VILLAGER: I think I left the stove on.

2nd VILLAGER: Yes, so did I.

3rd VILLAGER: I just remembered. I've got the plague. *(Fake coughs.)*

4th VILLAGER: And, I've got to go discover America.

(One by one, the VILLAGERS all beg off.)

RUPERT: Poltroons! Too cowardly to face the unknown evils of a dangerous wild-animal infested jungle.

VIDOW: Vell, ven you put it zat vay ...

ADALICIA: So, it's just the three of us, then. *(She looks at RUPERT.)* The three of us?

RUPERT: Of course.

(They gaze at each other, moonie-eyed. PANZ enters, making a lot of noise.)

PANZ: Inn-keeper! Sausage and drink for two. My friend will be right along. He's just parking the ox-cart. Sauerkraut for one. He's sour enough already.

ADALICIA: *(To VIDOW and RUPERT.)* That's one of the pair who were giving free candy to the children in the village today.

(POTZ enters, also making lots of noise.)

And that's the other one!

POTZ: *(To PANZ.)* Have you ever seen a penguin this big?

PANZ: No.

POTZ: I think I just ran over a nun! *(They laugh.)*

ADALICIA: Maybe they know where the Baron has taken the children.

RUPERT: But how to find out without raising their suspicions? I know! I shall throw them off their guard with *bonhommie*.

VIDOW: Vis vat?

RUPERT: *Germütlichkeit*.

VIDOW: Vell, vy didn't you say so?

RUPERT: Watch. (*He ambles up to POTZ and PANZ.*) Good day, my good fellows. (*POTZ and PANZ turn away.*) It's a hot day, isn't it? (*POTZ and PANZ ignore him.*) Yes, a cool drink goes down well after a hard day's work. You know, sheep-herding? Tinkering? Kidnapping children?

POTZ: Knock, knock.

RUPERT: Who's there?

PANZ: Dummy.

RUPERT: Dummy who?

POTZ/PANZ: Dummy a favour and get lost!

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(*RUPERT returns to ADALICIA and VIDOW.*)

RUPERT: They were too clever for the old *bonhommie* trick.

VIDOW: Ze vat trick?

RUPERT: The old *Germütlichkeit* trick.

VIDOW: Schpeak ze King's German, vy don't you? So, Adalicia, it looks like ve have to fall back on ze oldest trick of all. Ze feminine viles.

ADALICIA: Ooh, I don't like to get too close to those two.

VIDOW: Don't worry. (*She puffs up her hair and bosoms.*) I've got zis. (*She sidles up to POTZ and PANZ. In a sultry voice.*) Hello, boys. Been on ze road long?

POTZ: Not that long.

PANZ: I don't think there's a road long enough.

POTZ: That's quite a dress you're wearing.

VIDOW: Zis old thing? I got it for a ridiculous price.

PANZ: You mean, you got it for an absurd figure.

VIDOW: It must be very lonely on ze road for you.

POTZ: It must be very lonely anywhere for you.

VIDOW: Out on ze road, no wife, no children.

PANZ: What are you getting at?

VIDOW: Ven vas ze last time you heard ze happy voices of children?

POTZ: Knock, knock.

VIDOW: Who's zere?

PANZ: Ima.

VIDOW: Ima who?

POTZ/PANZ: Ima going to dump this drink on your head if you don't take off.

(VIDOW retreats quickly. ADALICIA moves away from RUPERT, and goes to POTZ and PANZ with two tankards.)

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VIDOW: *(To RUPERT.)* Ze old feminine viles vorked better last time I used zem.

RUPERT: When was that?

VIDOW: During ze Crusades.

RUPERT: I'm very worried about my horse.

VIDOW: About your vat, dear?

RUPERT: My horse!

VIDOW: Oh, horse! I'm a little deaf, dear. My uncle died from deafness.

RUPERT: How did he die from deafness?

VIDOW: He didn't hear ze train. So, you've got a horse?

RUPERT: Well, I used to. I fell off Valiant somewhere in the dark forest.

VIDOW: Valiant? He's stew by now.

RUPERT: We already did that joke.

VIDOW: Oh, my dear children! Zey have been gone sree whole days: yesterday,

today und tomorrow.

RUPERT: Are they good children?

VIDOW: Are zere bad children? *(Turning to the audience.)* Vat do you say? Are zere bad children? ... No? ... No? ... Let's ask your parents. ... Are zere bad children? No? ... I sink you've got ze vool pulled down very firmly.

RUPERT: What were their names again?

VIDOW: Hansel und Gretel. Gretel is zo schmart! She can take care of herself.

RUPERT: And, Hansel?

VIDOW: Ven he goes to a mind-reader, zey only charge half-price.

(MUSIC NO. 8: EIN PROSIT. ADALICIA joins P&P..)

ALL: EIN PROSIT, EIN PROSIT, DER GERMÜTLICHKEIT!
EIN PROSIT, EIN PROSIT, DER GERMÜTLICHKEIT!
ZIGGY-ZAGGA, ZIGGY-ZAGGA, HOY, HOY, HOY!
ZIGGY-ZAGGA, ZIGGY-ZAGGA, HOY, HOY, HOY!

POTZ: Ahh! That's good root beer!

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ADALICIA: Drink those down, boys. I'll be right back with more. *(She leaves them.)*

POTZ/PANZ: EIN PROSIT, EIN PROSIT, DER GERMÜTLICHKEIT!

ADALICIA: *(Joining RUPERT and VIDOW.)* So! They work for Lady Malevola. She has a cottage deep in the forest and she lures children there. So, if the Baron took the children into the forest, chances are they'll end up at Lady Malevola's cottage.

RUPERT: How did you find that out?

ADALICIA: *Bonhommie* and feminine wiles. To the forest! *(She exits.)*

RUPERT: To the forest! *(He exits.)*

VIDOW: To ze forest! *(She exits.)*

POTZ/PANZ: ZIGGY-ZAGGA, ZIGGY-ZAGGA, HOY, HOY, HOY!
ZIGGY-ZAGGA, ZIGGY-ZAGGA, HOY, HOY, HOY!

(They exit. MUSIC NO. 8a: 4th SCENE CHANGE.)

END OF SCENE

HANSEL & GRETEL

A Panto

Act I

Scene 6 - Deep in the forest

(FX: spooky forest sounds.)

GRETEL: Oh, Hansel, ve're lost, ve're lost! Ve're lost in ze Great Forest.

HANSEL: I don't know. It's an Okay Forest, but I wouldn't say it was a Great Forest. But, it certainly is dark und forboding.

GRETEL: Don't tell me you're shcared!

HANSEL: All right, I von't. I'll tell you I'm frightened out of my lederhosen!

GRETEL: Careful, it's a family show. I'm so hungry, Hansel. Ve't nossing to eat.

HANSEL: Ve would have, but somebody made me crumble it up to feed ze birds.

GRETEL: *(Getting an idea.)* I know! Ve can find some nuts in ze trees.

HANSEL: Zere's a few nuts out zere und all.

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GRETEL: Zere's a whole vall of trees right here.

HANSEL: A vall of trees? Vat'll ve get from a vall of trees?

GRETEL: Valnuts. Und see? Zis little tree's only as high as my chest.

HANSEL: Don't tell me.

GRETEL: Chestnuts.

HANSEL: Vat kind of tree is zis?

GRETEL: Zat's a dough-tree.

HANSEL: Vat do you get from zat?

GRETEL: Doughnuts.

HANSEL: How about zis yer-tree?

GRETEL: Vat do you get from a yer-tree?

HANSEL: Yer nuts!

GRETEL: But zese valnuts are delicious!

HANSEL: Are valnuts green vis lots of legs?

GRETEL: No.

HANSEL: Zen you just ate a caterpillar.

GRETEL: *(Spitting it out.)* Pt-aah! Pt-aah! Pt-aah! Yuck!

HANSEL: Zo. Ze moss grows on ze norss side of ze tree, ja?

GRETEL: So ze Girl Scout handbook says.

HANSEL: Zo, if zat's norss, then ve are ... losht. Ve are zooooooh losht!

GRETEL: Ve need food. Ve need a place to shleep; und ve need to find our vay out of zis forest.

HANSEL: Vell, I need some better jokes in zis schtinker of a play, but zat's not going to happen, ee-zzer.

GRETEL: Cheer up, Hansel. Zere's always light at ze end of ze tunnel.

HANSEL: Ja, but vis my luck, it'll be a train.

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GRETEL: Now, look, Hansel. No more Herr Negative. Accentuate ze positive! Ven I say "right", you say "ok"; ven I say "ok", you say "right". Ok?

HANSEL: Right.

GRETEL: Right.

HANSEL: Ok.

GRETEL: Ok.

HANSEL: Right.

GRETEL: You're not going to schtop zis, are you?

HANSEL: Not ever. Ok?

GRETEL: Right. Now, if ve shtay here, ve shtarve. Let's get moving, ok?

HANSEL: Right! Hold my hand, Gretel.

(MUSIC: No. 8A: MYSTERIOSO PIZZICATO. They move down into the house and through the audience, mysteriously and sneakily. As they do, the scene changes to:)

HANSEL & GRETEL

A Panto

Act I

Scene 7 - a different part of the forest with the Witch's Cottage centre.

GRETEL: Look, Hansel. It's a house.

(They approach the stage.)

HANSEL: It's a beautiful house, Gretel.

(They come up onto the stage.)

BOTH: It's a candy cottage!

(They approach the cottage warily.)

HANSEL: It looks delicious.

GRETEL: It looks scrumptious.

BOTH: It looks edible!

GRETEL: Oh, Hansel! I'm so hungry, I could eat a horse!

HANSEL: I'm so hungry, I could eat a house!

GRETEL: *(To the audience.)* Vat do you think? Should ve eat some of it? ...

HANSEL: No? ... Ve shouldn't?

GRETEL: Oh! Ve should? ...

HANSEL: Ve shouldn't? ...

GRETEL: Ve should?...

HANSEL: Should? ...

GRETEL: Shouldn't? ...

BOTH: Vell, make up your minds!

HANSEL: Zere's only vun vay to settle zis. Ve toss a coin.

GRETEL: A coin? Nobody in all Bavaria has a coin.

HANSEL: *(Going into the audience.)* You! You don't look Bavarian. Got a coin? Don't worry, you'll get it back. Have I ever lied to you – zat you know of?

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Okay. (*Audience should respond "Right."*) Right. (*Audience should respond "Okay."*) It's your own time you're wasting, you know. Now, ve flip ze coin. Vait! Eager Edgar. Heads, ve schneak away to anoizzer part of ze forest. Tails, ve eat ze house. Okay? (*Audience should respond "Right."*) No, ve're not schtarting zat again. Schpin it! (*Audience member flips the coin. HANSEL takes it and holds it out.*) Vat vas it? (*Whatever the result is:*) Did you sink zere vas ever a chance ve vere NOT going to eat it? (*He starts to move away.*) Vat? Oh, ja. Here's your coin. Schtingy. (*He comes back to the stage.*) Gretel! It's decided. Ve eat ze place!

GRETEL: Dibs on ze door-knob!

(They rush to the cottage and pull pieces off of it, munching on them enthusiastically. Or mime this.)

Oh, zis is heaven!

HANSEL: Zis makes boot soup tastes like old boots!

GRETEL: I never go back to Schplitzenpantz if zis is ze vay zey eat out here.

HANSEL: I never go back to Schplitzenpantz, period! "Don't go into ze voods, children. Zere are lions und tigers und Republicans zere!" Ppphhtt!

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BOTH: Yumm! (*They both eat for a while.*)

GRETEL: Hansel.

HANSEL: Yes, Gretel?

GRETEL: Are you sinking vat I am sinking?

HANSEL: Vat are you sinking?

GRETEL: I am sinking "If zis is vat ze outside tastes like ..."

HANSEL: "... vat does ze inside taste like?" Oh, look! A sign und it says: "Little children, ring ze bell." Oh, I guess ve should ring ze bell, zen.

GRETEL: I don't know, Hansel. Remember vat Mütti always said.

HANSEL: "Schtöp picking at zat. Bubonic plague goes away if you leave it alone"?

GRETEL: No! "Never knock on a door if you don't know vat's on ze oizzer side."

HANSEL: Oh, zat! Ppphhtt! Ve aren't knocking; ve're ringing.

GRETEL: I don't know if ve should. (*To the audience.*) Vat do you think? Should ve ring ze bell? ...

HANSEL: No? ... Ve shouldn't?

GRETEL: Oh! Ve should? ...

(Etc.)

HANSEL: Look, did you really sink ve vere going to listen to you, anyway?

BOTH: Ve're ringing ze bell!

(They ring the bell. FX: Big bell. It reverberates and the door slowly opens. Smoke and light come from inside. MUSIC No. 9: OH, CHILDREN, COME OUT. HANSEL and GRETEL run and hide.)

VOICE FROM OFF: NIBBLE, NIBBLE, LITTLE MOUSEKIN.
WHO'S THAT NIBBLING ON MY HOUSEKIN?

(LADY MALEVOLA enters, majestically.)

LADY MALEVOLA: OH, CHILDREN, COME OUT FROM WHEREVER YOU ARE.
YOU'RE SO WELCOME HERE, FROM NEAR OR FROM FAR.
MY BEAUTIFUL HOUSE IS YOURS TO ENJOY
WITH LOVE AND WITH TREATS FOR EACH GIRL AND BOY.

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NIBBLE, NIBBLE, LITTLE MOUSEKIN.
WHO'S THAT NIBBLING ON MY HOUSEKIN?

(HANSEL and GRETEL creep out from hiding.)

OH, HANSEL AND GRETEL, YOU'VE COME HERE AT LAST.
WE'VE BEEN HERE WAITING, THESE LONG DAYS PAST.
I'LL OPEN MY DOORS AND OFFER YOU REST,
AND SAFETY AND LOVE AND ALL THAT IS BEST.

CANDIES, CAKES AND ALL THAT'S SWEET,
ALL THE THINGS YOU LOVE TO EAT.

HANSEL: Sold!

(He starts for the house, but GRETEL stops him.)

GRETEL: Vait! Remember vat mütti said.

HANSEL: "Eat your boiled boots. Zere are children in Canada* who have no boots?"
(Ed. Or wherever is funny.)*

GRETEL: No! "Never trust a stranger vis sweeties."

HANSEL: Oh, zat. Ppphttt!

LADY MALEVOLA: But, Gretel, my dear. I'm no stranger. Remember how delicious my lollipops were?

HANSEL: Ja, I remember your lollipops.

GRETEL: Hansel!

HANSEL: Gretel, ve go in, ve taste a few schveeties, ve catch a few zeas. Vat could go wrong?

LADY MALEVOLA: Yes, what could go wrong? Come in. We're all friends here.

GRETEL: Vell... before ve go in, I have some questions. Is your house made from tree- und ground-nut free sources? Und is it gluten- und animal-source free?

HANSEL: Gretel, don't look a gift schveetie in ze cavity.

GRETEL: I schtill don't know. *(To the audience.)* Vat do you think? Should ve go inside? ...

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HANSEL: No? ... Ve shouldn't?

GRETEL: Oh! Ve should? ...

(Etc.)

HANSEL: To heck vis it!

BOTH: Ve're going in!

(They both rush into the house. LADY MALEVOLA laughs aloud and turns to the audience.)

LADY MALEVOLA: And don't think I'll forget about you, either! Ha, ha, ha!

(She sweeps into the cottage and the door closes. MUSIC NO. 9A: VALIANT, 2nd TROT-THROUGH. The pantomime horse dances through and exits. Light down.)

END OF ACT ONE

HANSEL & GRETEL

A Panto

Act II

Scene 1 - The Village Inn

(MUSIC: No. 10, ENTR'ACTE. MUSIC: No. 11, IT'S STILL A GRIMM OLD TIME.)

VILLAGERS: WELCOME BACK, YOU KIDDIES,
AND PARENTS, YOU, AS WELL!
WE HOPE YOU HAD A GOOD TIME
IN THE INTERVAL.

WE'RE STILL HERE IN THE FOREST,
WE STILL HAVE GOT NO FOOD.
IF YOU'D BOUGHT A COOKIE FOR US,
THE ACT COULD BE RENEWED.

IT'S STILL A GRIMM OLD TIME IN THE FOREST.
IT'S A FIGHT JUST TO STAY ALIVE!
IT'S STILL A GRIMM OLD TIME IN THE FOREST
AND WE JUST MAY NOT SURVIVE!

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WHERE'S HANSEL?
WHERE'S GRETEL?
WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE.
IF THEY'VE WANDERED TO THE FOREST,
THEY'VE WANDERED OFF TOO FAR.

POOR GRETEL!
POOR HANSEL!
WE FOLK OF SCHPLITZENPANTZ
WOULD RUSH RIGHT OUT TO FIND THEM,
BUT THEY HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE!

(Dance interlude: doh-si-doh and back again.)

ALL: IT'S STILL A GRIMM OLD TIME IN THE FOREST.
WILL THOSE TWO KIDS SURVIVE?
IT'S STILL A GRIMM OLD TIME IN THE FOREST
AND THEY WON'T COME OUT ALIVE!
WE'RE GIVING ODDS, NOW,
THAT THEY WON'T COME OUT ALIVE!

(At the end of the song, VIDOW VINKLE enters, wearing hiking boots with a Tyrolean hat.)

VIDOW: Hello, children! ... Oh, my giddy aunt! Aschleep already? Vakey, vakey!
Hello, children! ... Zat was like a vet Vednesday in *(nearby small town*

starting with W). So, has anybody seen my kids, yet?

VILLAGERS: *(Severally.)* No. Sorry. Not yet. Not a glimmer. Etc.

VIDOW: Vell, zat's annoying. Gretel knew vat she vas to do und even Hansel isn't zo schtupid zat he couldn't get home before dark.

VILLAGERS: Well, you know kids these days.

VIDOW: Ven I vas young, ve had to fight off Mongols und Turks und Vikings, every day – before breakfascht. Now? – kidnapped by an Evil Baron und zey go to pieces. Oh, if only my husband had not died in childbirss ...

VILLAGERS: Childbirss?

VIDOW: Don't ask. So now ve go to find zem. Adalicia und Prince Rupert vill be here soon. Aren't zey just adorable? I feel a Royal Vedding coming on!

(RUPERT enters, laden down with useless gear.)

Vait! Vere is Adalicia? You two vas getting very chummy in ze first act.

RUPERT: Oh, no, no, no! No, no! No, no, no, no! No, no, no!

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VIDOW: Mesinks ze Princey does protest too much. So vere is she?

RUPERT: She was just ... I mean, she was putting ... I've brought the rescue gear!

VIDOW: Rescue gear?

RUPERT: Yes, things we might need to rescue the children from certain peril.

VIDOW: Very clever of you. Vat have you brought?

RUPERT: *(He holds up each item.)* Well, rescue rope to climb a mountain.

VIDOW: Zere are no mountains in zis part of Bavaria.

RUPERT: Are you sure?

VIDOW: I've never had to climb vun yet.

RUPERT: So, we don't need the rope?

VIDOW: Nope.

(He tosses it away.)

RUPERT: A rescue ice axe.

VIDOW: For glaciers?

RUPERT: Yes.

(She stares at him until he tosses it away.)

VIDOW: Vat else?

RUPERT: Rescue running shoes.

VIDOW: Vat for?

RUPERT: In case we need to run away.

VIDOW: *(Taking them.)* I'll take zose.

RUPERT: *(Pulling a stuffed dog out of the bag.)* My rescue puppy.

VIDOW: Zat's zo cuuute! *(Dropping the shoes for the dog.)* Him, ve keep.

RUPERT: Rescue sun block. Even in the forest, you can't be too careful.

VIDOW: Absolutely. May I have some? *(He hands it to her; she tosses it away.)*

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RUPERT: Rescue hand sanitiser? *(He tosses it.)* Dental floss? *(He tosses it.)*

VIDOW: You've never rescued anybody before, have you?

RUPERT: Not as such, no. It's more sitting around the castle, admiring the tapestries.

VIDOW: Not really in touch vis ze common people up at ze kessle, are ve?

RUPERT: Ah. Well, now's the time, then. What can be keeping Adalicia?

VIDOW: Ve call for her, okay? *(Audience: "Right!")* No, zat's Hansel's gag. Ve call on sree. Vun, two – four! Vait! Vait! Did I say sree? You've got ze sauerkraut in your ears again. Ve try again. Vun, two – seven! Oh, now you're using your schmarts. *(Quickly.)* Vun-two-sree! Adalicia! Adalicia!

(ADALICIA enters, carrying a horse bridle.)

ADALICIA: *(To RUPERT.)* Is this yours?

RUPERT: No, I don't wear a bridle, anymore.

ADALICIA: I mean, is this your horse's?

RUPERT: What? Yes! That's Stu's!

ADALICIA: You mean Valiant.

RUPERT: I hope.

ADALICIA: Someone was going to make soup from it. I gave them my old shoes.

VILLAGERS & VIDOW: Mm! Delicious!

RUPERT: So, Valiant may still be out there – unless someone has found him already.

ADALICIA: Well, let's go, then. Into the woods!

RUPERT: Into the woods!

VIDOW: Into ze voods!

(MUSIC NO. 12: INTO THE WOODS (SORRY, STEVE.))

VILLAGERS: INTO THE WOODS! INTO THE WOODS! INTO THE WOODS!

RUPERT: Wait! Stop the music! Are you all coming with us? Changed your minds, have you?

VILLAGERS: *(Severally.)* Oh, no. I... uhm... that is, my... uhm... My aunt is... visiting ... from *(nearby small town)*. I have to clean out my eaves. I have to clean out his eaves, too.

ANOTHER VILLAGER: I have to go and sit under an apple tree.

RUPERT: Why?

SAME VILLAGER: I'm going to invent gravity.

ADALICIA: All right, then, don't help! We don't need you. We can do it ourselves.

VILLAGERS: *(Severally.)* Right! Sure, you can! Prosit! Hals und Beinbruch! Say hello to the kids! Gesundheit! Viel Glück! I really do have to clean out my eaves.

(RUPERT, ADALICIA and VIDOW exit.)

A VILLAGER: That's the last we'll see of them.

VILLAGERS: *(Severally.)* Happy Washing Day, everybody! Fröliche Waschen Tag! Etc.

(The VILLAGERS pick up their laundry and exit. MUSIC NO. 12a: 6th SCENE CHANGE.)

END OF SCENE

HANSEL & GRETEL

A Panto

Act II

Scene 2 - Inside The Gingerbread House

(HANSEL and GRETEL enter the cottage in wonder.)

GRETEL: Oh, Hansel!

HANSEL: Oh, Gretel!

BOTH: We're going to have a good time here!

(They dance in a circle. LADY MALEVOLA enters.)

LADY MALEVOLA: There's nothing I like more than seeing children so full of life.

HANSEL: Vat is your name, kind lady?

LADY MALEVOLA: I am the Lady Malevola.

GRETEL: Odd. It sounds as if your name is based on ze Latin vord for "evil".

LADY MALEVOLA: Speak Latin, do you girl?

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GRETEL: Not really.

LADY MALEVOLA: It actually means "lover of little children".

HANSEL: Oh, isn't zat nice? Vat are zose?

LADY MALEVOLA: What are what, dear?

HANSEL: *(Pointing.)* Zose!

LADY MALEVOLA: I'm a bit short-sighted. You'll have to point louder.

HANSEL: Zose round vite sings.

LADY MALEVOLA: Oh, those are marshmallows. You want one?

HANSEL: Sure!

LADY MALEVOLA: Open your mouth. *(She pops a marshmallow in.)* Tasty, aren't they?

HANSEL: *(With mouth full.)* Mmm-mmm-mmm.

GRETEL: You are so nice. You must love little children.

LADY MALEVOLA: Oh, yes. I do love little children. Don't I, boys?

(POTZ and PANZ enter suddenly from hiding spots.)

POTZ/PANZ: Oh, she loves little children – baked!

(POTZ and PANZ suddenly grab HANSEL and GRETEL.)

GRETEL: Vat are you doing?

PANZ: We're having you for supper.

GRETEL: Oh, zat's nice. Vat are ve having?

POTZ/PANZ: You!

GRETEL: Zat's not so nice!

HANSEL: Ve sought you vere a nice old lady!

LADY MALEVOLA: Old! Right! He goes into the oven first!

(POTZ starts to push HANSEL toward the oven.)

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GRETEL: Vait! You can't eat us! It's not right!

LADY MALEVOLA: Why shouldn't I eat you? You ate my house.

GRETEL: Ze two cases are hardly morally parallel.

LADY MALEVOLA: Says you.

GRETEL: A person shouldn't make a house out of schveeties if zey don't vant it to be eaten!

LADY MALEVOLA: Well, you're quite right. I make it out of sweeties so that all the little children will stop to taste it. Then we grab them!

GRETEL: Vy, you're nossing but a vicked old ...

LADY MALEVOLA: Go on. You were saying?

GRETEL: Vell, I didn't vant to reinforce cultural schtereotypes.

HANSEL: I vill! You're a vicked old vitch!

LADY MALEVOLA: Right, my little stupid. Got it in one!

(MUSIC NO. 12b: OMINOUS MUSIC.)

(Thunder, flash, smoke. LADY MALEVOLA transforms into a nasty witch. Try to do this in three seconds, please.)

How do you like me, now, kiddies?

HANSEL: You don't clean up as good as some.

LADY MALEVOLA: And, now: into the oven!

GRETEL: Vait! You don't want to eat us!

LADY MALEVOLA: Oh, I think I do.

GRETEL: But, we haven't eaten in weeks. We're nossing but schkin und bones!

LADY MALEVOLA: True. *(She pokes HANSEL.)* You could do with a little meat on you.

HANSEL: I've always been schmall for my size.

LADY MALEVOLA: So, we fatten you up a bit. Here, boy. Have a marshmallow.

HANSEL: I ... *(She stuffs one in his mouth.)*

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LADY MALEVOLA: Have two! *(She shoves another in.)* How about another? *(She keeps stuffing HANSEL's mouth.)* What do you think, kids, another one? *(Kids will say yes.)* How about one more? And another? Oh, there's room for one more, there! Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

(She keeps stuffing him as the lights come down. MUSIC NO. 12C: 7th SCENE CHANGE.)

END OF SCENE

HANSEL & GRETEL

A Panto

Act II

Scene 3 - Deep in the Forest

(RUPERT and ADALICIA enter, hand in hand. They stop centre and look at each other, moonie-eyed.)

VIDOW: *(Off.)* Zat's all right. I can carry all of zis. It's only fifty miles. *(She enters, weighed down with bags and equipment.)* Maybe somebody can give me a hand?

RUPERT: *(Relieving her of her burden.)* I'm terribly sorry, ma'am. I was pre-occupied.

VIDOW: You vas pre-occu-somesing. Hello ... ! ... Ah, ah, ah! Vait for it! ... children! ... An act und a half und you're finally getting it.

RUPERT: I'll make a fire.

ADALICIA: And, I'll make some food.

VIDOW: Und I go to find ze little vidow's tree. *(She looks at the audience.)* You all just amuse yourselves vile I'm gone, because zey're too pre-occu-somesing to do it.

RUPERT: *(After VIDOW exits.)* Well, here we are – alone.

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ADALICIA: We certainly are.

RUPERT: I don't often find myself alone in the forest with a member of the opposite sex.

ADALICIA: Really? Happens to me all the time.

RUPERT: Oh! You've led a very different life to mine.

ADALICIA: I would say so. I've worked and fought my way through life; you're a prince.

RUPERT: May I hold your hand?

ADALICIA: I can manage. It's not heavy.

RUPERT: Have I offended you?

ADALICIA: Yes! You're a prince!

RUPERT: Yes ... sorry, can't help that. I wasn't consulted.

ADALICIA: When we've found the children and you've found your horse, you'll go back to the castle and I'll ... we'll all be here – just as before.

RUPERT: That's not the kind of prince I am. I'm not a trifler.

ADALICIA: Yeah, I've heard that before.

RUPERT: Adalicia, I'm here. I'm not going anywhere – or, if I do, you're coming with me.

ADALICIA: Really? *(Arms around his neck.)* My mother warned me about men like you.

RUPERT: Royalty with pots of money and the best of intentions?

ADALICIA: In fact, it wasn't men like you she warned me about, at all. *(To the audience.)* What do you think? Should I believe him?... Yes? No? ... Oh, what do you know? *(Arms around him.)* Now, what can we do, with no one around, that would leave us both very happy and a little flushed?

RUPERT: Sing a song together about our predicament?

ADALICIA: *(Pause.)* Okaaay! Let's sing a song.

(MUSIC: No. 13: I'M IN LOVE.)

RUPERT: I'M FEELING SO FUNNY, I DON'T KNOW MY NAME.
(To audience.) I'M IN LOVE! I'M IN LOVE!

ADALICIA: WE JUST MET AND, BOY!, NOW I'M FEELING THE SAME!
(To audience.) I'M IN LOVE! I'M IN LOVE!

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RUPERT: SHE LOOKED AT ME, MUSHY LIKE; THAT TURNED ME LOOSE!
AND I SAID TO HER, "I DO LIKE YOU!"

ADALICIA: I GIGGLED AND SAID THAT I FELT LIKE A GOOSE!
HE SAID, "YES, I FEEL LIKE ONE, TOO."

BOTH: SHE'S (HE'S) IN LOVE! SHE'S (HE'S) IN LOVE!
THERE'S AN AGES-OLD LOOK IN HER (HIS) EYE.
SHE'S (HE'S) IN LOVE! SHE'S (HE'S) IN LOVE!
OH, IT'S NICE TO BE KISSED ON THE SLY. (YOU KNOW WHY.)

RUPERT: I FEEL FINE! IT'S DIVINE WHEN YOU
STROLL WITH THE MOON UP ABOVE.

ADALICIA: OH, I'M NOT ONE TO TEASE, AND I'M EASY TO SQUEEZE.

BOTH: OH, IT'S LOVELY TO BE IN LOVE!

ADALICIA: *(As the music continues.)* Rupert?

RUPERT: Yes, Adalicia?

ADALICIA: We're here, all alone.

RUPERT: Yes, I can see that.

ADALICIA: What should we do, with a big full moon shining down on us?

RUPERT: I look at that moon and I know what I want to do.

ADALICIA: *(Sidling up to him.)* Yes?

RUPERT: But, I didn't bring my telescope with me.

ADALICIA: *(To audience.)* This relationship is going to take a lot of work.

RUPERT: Adalicia?

ADALICIA: Yes, Rupert?

RUPERT: Stop me, if I'm being forward, but, may I kiss your hand?

ADALICIA: Why? Is my face dirty?

(Instead of kissing, they suddenly sing.)

BOTH: SHE'S (HE'S) IN LOVE! SHE'S (HE'S) IN LOVE!

I QUITE LIKE THE LOOK IN HER (HIS) EYE!
SHE'S (HE'S) IN LOVE! SHE'S (HE'S) IN LOVE!
OH, IT'S EASY TO KISS, IF YOU TRY. (WE SHOULD TRY.)

RUPERT: I FEEL FINE! IT'S DIVINE WHEN YOU
STROLL WITH THE MOON UP ABOVE.

ADALICIA: OH, I'M NOT ONE TO TEASE,

BOTH: AND SHE'S (I'M) SURE ONE (EASY) TO SQUEEZE.
OH, IT'S LOVELY TO BE IN LOVE!

(The music ends, they nearly kiss, but VIDOW returns.)

VIDOW: Vatch for ze poison ivy behind ... *(They break.)* Oh, sorry! Awkvard!

RUPERT: Not at all, Vidow Vinkle. We were discussing ... things.

VIDOW: Ve didn't call it discussing ven I vas your age.

ADALICIA: I'll get that fire started. | RUPERT: I'll make some food.

(They exit in opposite directions.)

VIDOW: Und I'll keep vatch. Ze Dark Forest is a schcary place, zo, if you see anysing nasty, you let me know. *(She ostentatiously keeps watch.)* You see anysing nasty

yet? ... No? (*Back to keeping watch.*) Anysing yet? No? (*Back to keeping watch.*
The BARON enters behind her. "He's behind you.") Vat? Vat vas it? Ze Baron?
Vere? ("*Behind you.*" *The BARON sneaks out.*) He's vere? ("*He's behind you*"). I
don't see him. (*The BARON sneaks in. "He's behind you"*) Vere? (*The BARON*
sneaks out.) Vat? ("*He's behind you*"). I'm not going to believe you, anymore.
(*The BARON sneaks in. "He's behind you"*) I don't believe you. (*The BARON*
taps her shoulder.) AAAH! Vy didn't you tell me he vas zere?

BARON: Good evening, Vidow Vinkle.

VIDOW: Not Vinkle! Vinkle! (*Try to get the audience to join in this time.*)

BARON: Sorry.

RUPERT: (*Entering with ADALICIA.*) Here, now, Baron! You're not very welcome here!

VIDOW: Between him und a horde of Mongol invaders, I take my chances vis ze Mongols.

BARON: Vidow, when I took your children, I was under the influence of an evil woman.

VIDOW: Vich evil voman vas zat?

BARON: Lady Malevola. She entrapped me, enslaved me, made me do her evil bidding.

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ADALICIA: She's had a face-lift, too.

VIDOW: So, taking my children vas her doing? (*He nods.*) Und ssrowing me out of my
hovel? (*He nods.*) Und ze monstrous rent you are asking for a dirt-floor shack?

BARON: I thought it was a hovel?

VIDOW: (*Suddenly Gestapo.*) I am asking ze questions here. Vat about ze rent?

RUPERT: And what about the Royal Treasury? I suppose that was Lady Malevola, too.

BARON: Absolutely. One hundred percent her idea – your Royal Highness.

RUPERT: Well, if we find the Vidow's children, and if the Royal Treasury is restored, and if
you guarantee the Vidow a roof over her head, I may – I say, may – forgive you.

BARON: Thank you, sir. I can lead us to Lady Malevola's cottage right now. It's not far.

RUPERT: Then, let's go, by all means. (*He loads the Baron with the useless equipment.*)

VIDOW: Lead on, Baron. Let's find zis evil voman.

ADALICIA: I bet she colours her hair. (*They all exit. MUSIC NO. 13a: 8th SCENE CHANGE.*)

END OF SCENE

HANSEL & GRETEL

A Panto

Act II

Scene 4 - Inside the Gingerbread House

(POTZ and PANZ enter, pulling GRETEL and HANSEL. LADY MALEVOLA enters.)

LADY MALEVOLA: So, you think you can escape. Potz, the girl to the kitchen.

HANSEL: Zat's razzer sexist of you. Zis is fourteen ssirty vun, after all. Ve're not in ze Dark Ages. Vy don't you send me to ze kitchen?

LADY MALEVOLA: Because you go into the cage! Panz! And if I catch you trying to escape again, it's ... *(Mimes slitting throat.)* "quaaaack!"

HANSEL: Vat, you turn me into a duck?

LADY MALEVOLA: Roast duck! *(PANZ pushes HANSEL into the cage and closes the door.)* And, now we fatten you up, good and proper. You get the easy part. You get to eat everything Gretel bakes for you.

HANSEL: You call zat ze easy part? Heff you tasted her cooking?

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GRETEL: Hey!

HANSEL: Come on, Gretel. Your Linzertorte tastes like dumplings und your dumplings taste like dumplings – vissout ze lings.

LADY MALEVOLA: It doesn't matter what it tastes like. You just have to fatten up nicely for my oven! Ha, ha, ha, ha!

GRETEL: Did you heff an unhappy childhood?

LADY MALEVOLA: You leave my mother out of this!

GRETEL: Ooh! Hit a nerve zere!

LADY MALEVOLA: Start cooking! Potz, Panz! Keep better watch on them. *(She goes off and returns with a broom with motorcycle handlebars.)*

POTZ/PANZ: Yes, your Evilness. Of course, your Wickedness.

GRETEL: Vere are you going?

LADY MALEVOLA: There's a Wicked Witches convention this weekend. I'm the Keynote Speaker.

POTZ/PANZ: What's your topic, oh Vile One?

LADY MALEVOLA: “Ten mistakes villains make in laying evil plots.”

HANSEL: Sounds fascinating. Can ve go?

LADY MALEVOLA: No! You eat! *(To GRETEL.)* You cook! Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha! *(She exits, cackling, on her broom. FX: A witch’s motorcycle broom.)*

HANSEL: Boy, vat a looney.

POTZ: Now, girl, start cooking. Make it fast. What do you want to eat first, boy?

HANSEL: Hundred-year old bird’s nest soup.

PANZ: We haven’t got a hundred-year-old bird’s nest.

HANSEL: I can wait.

POTZ: I think, some three minute boiled eggs would be better.

HANSEL: Can ve compromise on some ssree-year-old cheddar?

PANZ: No! Get cracking, cookie!

GRETEL: ~~If I crack ze eggs, I can’t boil ze eggs. I could coddle ze eggs.~~

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HANSEL: I hate coddled eggs. How about some schrambled eggs?

POTZ: No, boiled eggs!

GRETEL: I could do sree schrambled eggs, two coddled eggs und a zunny-zide up.

PANZ: Boiled!

GRETEL: Und two boiled eggs!

POTZ: Listen! No scrambled, no coddled, no sunny-side up. Just a big plate full of boiled eggs for the Sunday roast, here. *(Indicating HANSEL.)*

HANSEL: You can’t cook me!

PANZ: And, why can’t we cook you?

HANSEL: I’m not even here!

POTZ: What do you mean, you’re not here?

HANSEL: Vell, I’m not in Berlin, am I?

PANZ: No, you’re not in Berlin.

HANSEL: Und, I'm not in Dusseldorf, am I?

POTZ: No, you're not in Dusseldorf.

HANSEL: Und, I'm not in Cucamonga, am I?

POTZ/PANZ: No, you're not in Cucamonga, wherever that is.

HANSEL: So, I must be somevere else. Und, if I'm somevere else, I'm not here.

POTZ: Sounds right. *(Starts to open the cage.)* Wait a minute! Start cooking.

GRETEL: All right. Now, vat do I have to do first?

PANZ: Put water in the pot, girl!

GRETEL: Oh, I see. Vich is ze pot, again? *(Lifting a pan.)* Zis vun?

PANZ: *(Taking it away from her.)* No, that's a pan!

GRETEL: Zat's a pan? I sought zat vas a pot.

POTZ: *(Taking a pot.)* No, this is a pot!

GRETEL: Zat's a pot? Vat's ze difference?

POTZ: The difference is one's a pot ...

PANZ: And one's a pan!

GRETEL: Oh! Pots und pans?

POTZ/PANZ: Potz and Panz!

(MUSIC: NO. 14: ROLL UP!, reprise.)

BOTH: ROLL UP! ROLL UP! ROLL UP!
COME AND SEE WHAT WE OFFER TODAY!
ROLL UP! ROLL UP! ROLL UP!
COME AND TASTE OUR DELICIOUS DISPLAY!
ROLL UP! ROLL UP! ROLL UP!
CAKES AND COOKIES AND SWEET CANDIES, TOO!
ROLL UP! ROLL UP! ROLL UP!
SEE WHAT WE HAVE FOR YOU!

GRETEL: MY FRIEND, HERR POTZ ...

HANSEL: *(Joining in from the cage.)* AND MY FRIEND, HERR PANZ ...

BOTH: WILL SHOW YOU THE TASTIEST TREATS IN THE LAND!
WE HAVE SCRUMPTIOUS DELIGHTS
THAT WILL MELT IN YOUR HAND!

ALL FOUR: SO GOOD THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE A BIG BRASS BAND!

(HANSEL and GRETEL knock POTZ and PANZ on the head with pots and pans. The two henchmen collapse.)

HANSEL: Zat vorked better zan I ek-schpected it vould.

GRETEL: Qvickly now! Ve mustn't vaste time.

HANSEL: Right. Get zose eggs boiling, Gretel!

GRETEL: Eggs!

HANSEL: Ja, all zis talk about food has made me zo hungry!

GRETEL: Ve eat ven ve get home!

HANSEL: Since ven is zere food at home?

GRETEL: Heff a marshmallow. *(She snuffs his mouth.)* Oh! Vate are ze keys fo zis?

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(MUSIC NO. 14A: OMINOUS MUSIC.)

LADY MALEVOLA: *(Entering with keys.)* Right here, my dear.

HANSEL: Lady Malevola!

LADY MALEVOLA: Got it in one. Who said you were stupid?

HANSEL: Just about everyvun, actually.

LADY MALEVOLA: I knew those two idiots wouldn't keep you long, so I came back. Now, I'll eat you both! Ha, ha, ha, ha!

GRETEL: You really should seek help, you know.

LADY MALEVOLA: You're the one who needs help, my girl. *(POTZ and PANZ revive.)* You two! I heard people moving in the forest. Go find them and bring them here. Now! *(She grabs GRETEL.)* Stoke the fire, girl! It's Hansel fritters for lunch! Ha, ha, ha!

(POTZ and PANZ exit. Lights down. MUSIC NO. 14B: 9th SCENE CHANGE.)

END OF SCENE

HANSEL & GRETEL

A Panto

Act II

Scene 5 - A clearing near the cottage of the Witch

(The BARON leads VIDOW, RUPERT and ADALICIA onstage, moving quietly and carefully.)

VIDOW: Hello, children! *(Wait for the reaction.)* Zis is ze fifth time we do zis gag und I'm still catching some of you napping. On your toes, kiddies. *(She looks around.)* Zis forest is creepy. It gives me ze villies. *(Wait for it.)* Okay, zey're making up zeir own jokes now.

BARON: *(Putting his hands on her waist from behind.)* We must be quiet! We're getting very near to Lady Malevola's cottage.

VIDOW: I don't like zese voods. Zey make me all colley-wobbly.

BARON: Yes, I can feel her quiver.

VIDOW: Is zat vat you're doing? Hands off.

RUPERT: I must say there does seem to be some malevolent aura in these woods.

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VIDOW: I'm sorry. Zat vas ze sausage from lunch.

ADALICIA: I've never been this far into the woods. I have to say I'm frightened.

RUPERT: Let me put my arm around you.

ADALICIA: To protect me?

RUPERT: All right. Let's say "protect."

VIDOW: Vy don't ve sing a song to keep ze monsters und vild animals away?

BARON: If you sang a song, it would keep everyone away.

VIDOW: Ve vill sing a song und keep a vatch for ze schcary baddies. *(To audience.)* You can help! If you see a schcary baddy, you let us know. You clap your hands like zis: *(Clap! Clap!)* Here ve go.

(MUSIC: No. 15: IF YOU SEE A SHCARY BADDIE. As they sing, POTZ and PANZ come out from behind, grab the BARON and run off with him.)

ALL: IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY, CLAP YOUR HANDS.
IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY, CLAP YOUR HANDS
IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY, IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY,

IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY, CLAP YOUR HANDS.

VIDOW: Vait a minute. Vat did you see? ... Vere? (*“Behind you!”*) Vell, ve’d better go look, hadn’t ve? (*Walkaround.*) Zere’s nossing zere. Vat vas it? A baddy! A vat? A baddy! No, it vasn’t! Yes, it vas! Vell, ve’ll have to sing it again zen, von’t ve? Zis time, you shout out loud. Ah! Ah! Like zat.

(This time, POTZ and PANZ grab ADALICIA.)

ALL: IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY, SHOUT OUT LOUD.
IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY, SHOUT OUT LOUD.
IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY, IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY,
IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY, SHOUT OUT LOUD.

VIDOW: Vait a minute. Vat did you see? Vere? (*“Behind you!”*) Vell, ve’d better go look, hadn’t ve? (*Walkaround.*) Zere’s nossing zere. Vat vas it? A baddy! A vat? A baddy! No, it vasn’t! Yes, it vas! Vell, ve’ll have to sing it again zen, von’t ve? Zis time, you sctomp your feet. (*Stomp. Stomp.*)

(This time, POTZ and PANZ grab RUPERT.)

ALL: IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY, STOMP YOUR FEET.
IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY, STOMP YOUR FEET
IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY, IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY,
IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY, STOMP YOUR FEET.

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VIDOW: Vait a minute. Vat did you see? Vere? (*“Behind you!”*) Vell, ve’d better go look, hadn’t ve? (*Walkaround.*) Zere’s nossing zere. Vat vas it? A baddy! A vat? A baddy! No, it vasn’t! Yes, it vas! Vell, ve’ll have to sing it again zen, von’t ve? Zis time, vave und yell!

(This time, the bear comes in behind her.)

VIDOW: IF YOU SEE A SCHCARY BADDY, VAVE UND YELL.
IF YOU SEE A SCHCARY BADDY, VAVE UND YELL.
IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY, IF YOU SEE A SCARY BADDY,
IF YOU SEE A SCHCARY BADDY, VAVE UND YELL.

VIDOW: Vat vas it? A bear! Goodness! Vere vas it? Behind me? Are you telling me I’ve got a bear behind? (*Wait for reaction.*) I’d wash zat mind out vis soap if I vas your mum. Vell, ve’d better go look, hadn’t ve? (*She turns and bumps into the bear, who sees her, howls and runs.*) How rude!

(The BARON enters, running away from POTZ and PANZ.)

BARON: Oh, you again!

VIDOW: Ve have to scthop meeting like zis. My place in twenty minutes.

BARON: They've captured the others. I got away, but we have to get back to town!

VIDOW: I'm not leaving my children in ze woods a moment longer. So, vich vay is zis vicked voman's vickiup?

BARON: What?

VIDOW: Which way is this wicked woman's wickiup?

BARON: That's easy for you to say. It's this way, but I'm too frightened to go there.

VIDOW: If zey ever put a price on your head – take it. *(She grabs him.)* Come on, ve go now! Come on!

(They exit. MUSIC NO. 15A: VALIANT, 3rd TROT-THROUGH/10th SCENE CHANGE. The horse comes dancing through and exits.)

END OF SCENE

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HANSEL & GRETEL

A Panto

Act II

Scene 6 - Inside the Gingerbread House

(Enter LADY MALEVOLA, pulling HANSEL and GRETEL)

HANSEL: But I don't want to go into ze cage.

LADY MALEVOLA: Why not? It's a lovely cage.

HANSEL; As cages go. *(LADY MALEVOLA locks him in.)* I can't breathe in here! I've got Santa Claus-trophobia.

LADY MALEVOLA: What's that?

HANSEL: Ze fear of being locked up in a small cage at Christmas time.

LADY MALEVOLA: Stop acting the fool!

HANSEL: Who says I'm acting?

LADY MALEVOLA: How much have you fattened up? I'm a little shortsighted. Let me
feel your finger.

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(GRETEL quickly shoves a stick from the firewood into his hand and LADY MALEVOLA feels that instead.)

You haven't fattened up at all. We'll eat you today, anyway. Now, girl. Do you go into the cage or do you help me bake your brother?
(GRETEL doesn't answer.) Well?

GRETEL: I'm sinking, I'm sinking. Okay, I help.

HANSEL: Gretel!

GRETEL: Vat can I say? Sooner you than me. Vat do we do first, oh Evil Vun?

LADY MALEVOLA: We heat up the oven, of course. Put some more wood in the stove.

GRETEL: Vatever you say, Queen of ze Night. *(She opens the stove and stokes the fire. Bending down to look in.)* Boy, zat's vun hot fire!

LADY MALEVOLA: Yes, it is. Hold still now! *(She rushes at GRETEL.)*

HANSEL: *(From his cage.)* Gretel!

GRETEL: *(Rising so LADY MALEVOLA misses.)* So, do we just toss him in whole or do we dust him with flour and add a few baby carrots and potatoes?

LADY MALEVOLA: *(Recovering.)* Oh, some vegetables would be perfect. They're in the bin over here. Can you get some, please?

GRETEL: Certainly. *(Behind GRETEL's back, LADY MALEVOLA picks up a cleaver. GRETEL suddenly rises and turns.)* Now, did you want turnips or parsnips?

LADY MALEVOLA: *(Cleaver in the air.)* Oh, a little of both, perhaps.

GRETEL: *(Taking the cleaver and chopping at the vegetables.)* Okay.

LADY MALEVOLA: My dear, the oven should be hot now. Check it for me?

HANSEL: *(From the cage.)* It'll take longer than that to heat. Six or six hours, at least.

LADY MALEVOLA: Shut up, Pork Chop.

GRETEL: That's funny! Pork Chop – because he's going to BE gone!

LADY MALEVOLA: Check the oven, please.

GRETEL: Okay. *(She holds out her hands to the oven door.)* Yes, that's pretty hot.

LADY MALEVOLA: Oh, you have to get much closer than that.
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GRETEL: *(Going right up to the oven.)* Yes, I can feel the heat. It's ready.

LADY MALEVOLA: *(Positioning herself behind GRETEL.)* You have to open up the door to really gauge the heat, dear.

GRETEL: Open up the door? *(She does so.)* Like that?

LADY MALEVOLA: Perfect! Now just stick your head in and feel the heat.

GRETEL: Stick my head in? How do I do that? I'm much too short.

LADY MALEVOLA: *(Nastily.)* You're plenty tall enough for that ... dear.

GRETEL: Oh, no. My growth has been severely stunted by the malnutrition we face every day here in fifteenth-century Bavaria.

LADY MALEVOLA: *(Barely holding herself back.)* Just stick your head in the oven!

GRETEL: But how?

LADY MALEVOLA: *(She pushes GRETEL out of the way.)* Stupid girl! Walk to the oven, like this. *(She does.)* Put your hands on the edge, like this. *(She does.)* Lean over and put your head in. Like this!

(She leans in. GRETEL immediately boots her on the backside, then pushes. MUSIC NO. 15B: WITCH BAKING. LADY MALEVOLA falls, screaming, into the oven. GRETEL quickly slams the door shut.)

GRETEL: You should have used a sermometer, oh Qveen of Schtupidity.

HANSEL: I don't vant to complain, but could you open ze cage?

GRETEL: Open ze cage? First, ve talk about my cooking.

HANSEL: I love your cooking! You are ze best cook in ze vorld except for mummy. I bet your boot soup is even better zan hers.

GRETEL: Zat's more like it.

(She opens the cage door and HANSEL gets out.)

HANSEL: Oh, my sacroiliac. *(FX: A bell dings.)* Vat's zat?

GRETEL: A bell.

HANSEL: I mean, vy is zat?

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GRETEL: You don't suppose?

(They open the oven and remove a giant witch cookie.)

HANSEL: I know I said your cooking vas good – but I'm not eating zat.

GRETEL: Maybe ze birds vill eat it.

HANSEL: Not if zey're schmart. Ve need some food to take vis us.

GRETEL: Vell, zere's plenty here. Ve'll find somesing to put it in.

(They open a closet and look in.)

GRETEL: Hansel?

HANSEL: Ja, Gretel?

GRETEL: Would you say zat vas a chest full of gold und chewels?

HANSEL: All right. Zat vas a chest full of gold und chewels.

GRETEL: No! I mean ZAT! *(She pulls out a chest full of jewels.)*

HANSEL: Oh, zat! Ja, definitely gold und chewels. Gretel?

GRETEL: Hansel?

BOTH: Ve're rich!

(They dance around the treasure. POTZ and PANZ run in and HANSEL and GRETEL freeze in fear.)

GRETEL: Vat are you going to do to us?

HANSEL: Ve didn't mean to bake your boss up into a really ugly cookie.

GRETEL: Do ze vords "too much information" mean anyssing to you, Hansel?

POTZ/PANZ: *(Pause.)* We're sorry! We didn't mean to do it! We're just a pair of poor wandering bakers, but Lady Malevola bewitched us, but now we're free!

(VIDOW, RUPERT, BARON and ADALICIA enter.)

VIDOW: Gretel!

GRETEL: *(Running to hug her.)* Mütti!

VIDOW: Hansel!

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HANSEL: *(Running to hug her.)* Vatti!

VIDOW: Hansel, I'm not a Vatti.

HANSEL: Says you.

GRETEL: Mütti, zere vas a schary bad vitch und she vanted to eat us but first she made Hansel eat marshmallows und ve vere going to have Hansel fritters und ve schlammed pots und pans on Potz und Panz und ve baked a vitchy cookie und ve found a chest full of gold und chewels.

VIDOW: Vell, as long as you had fun. Vait a minute! Gold und chewels?

HANSEL: Ja! Here! You see? *(He shows off the chest.)* I am sinking a schplit-level condo in Berlin und a BMW for schtarters.

RUPERT: Let me see that! *(Looks at it.)* This is the Royal Treasury – found at last!

HANSEL: Ja, ve found it! Finders keepers!

RUPERT: And sometimes, finders weepers.

VIDOW: I sink ve give it back, Hansel.

RUPERT: Don't worry, my boy. There'll be a handsome reward for you and your

family to keep.

BARON: What about me? I led you here. Don't I get to keep something?

RUPERT: Yes. Your head.

BARON: Fair enough.

ADALICIA: And where does this all leave me?

RUPERT: Back in Schplitzenpantz.

THE OTHERS: What! (*Or "Vat!", depending on your accent.*)

ADALICIA: I see. Back to being a bar-maid.

RUPERT: No. Back to gather your things then to the castle for a wedding.

THE OTHERS: A wedding! (*Or "A vedding!", depending on your accent.*)

ADALICIA: A wedding?

RUPERT: If you'll have me.

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ADALICIA: If I'll have you? Oh ... well ... I ... (*To audience.*) What do you think?

VIDOW: Vat are you asking zem for? Marry ze prince or ze whole ending goes into ze dumpster!

ADALICIA: Oh, in that case – of course I'll marry you, Rupert.

(They nearly kiss.)

VIDOW: No time for zat, now. Back to Schplitzenpantz! Potz und Panz, bring ze pots und pans. Baron, you carry ze treasure. Hansel – (*Handing him a poker.*) – you carry ze Baron-schticker.

(They all exit. MUSIC 15C: VALIANT, 4th TROT-THROUGH/11th SCENE CHANGE. The pantomime horse comes through in a more extended dance. Lights down.)

END OF SCENE

HANSEL & GRETEL

A Panto

Act II

Scene 7 - The Village of Schplitzenpantz

(The VILLAGERS gather. Enter the BARON and VIDOW.)

VIDOW: Vell, Baron, now zat you're nice, I'll remind you zat I'm schtill a widow.

BARON: There's probably a reason for that.

VIDOW: Come on! Vere are you going to find anoZZer vife like me?

BARON: That's one way to look at it. All right, shall we get married?

VIDOW: At least. Zere might even be ze pitter-patter of little Barons, soon.

BARON: That's stretching it even for a panto.

(Enter HANSEL and GRETEL, licking lollipops.)

HANSEL: I am loving zis! Vis ze revard money, ve can have lollipops every day!

GRETEL: Or ve could put it into a tax-free educational savings plan to provide for our higher education at an accredited institution.

HANSEL: No, I go for ze lollipops.

VIDOW: Hansel, zere is enough money for higher education und lollipops, too!

(RUPERT and ADALICIA enter, hand in hand.)

RUPERT: There is, of course, personal income tax, corporate income tax, excise tax and HST *(or similar local tax)* to be levied on that.

VIDOW: *(To audience.)* I hate ze fourteen hundreds. In six hundred years, zere vill be no taxes, do you sink? *(To BARON.)* But, ven ve live in ze kessle, Baron, sink of ze luxuries. I could bathe in milk schtraight from ze cows.

BARON: Wouldn't you want it pasteurized?

VIDOW: No, just up to here vill do. Ze fun I'll have: gowns by Renee of Paris.

BARON: And makeup by plaster of paris.

HANSEL: Und Gretel and I can eat until ve are piggy.

(The horse trots on, sees RUPERT and rushes over to him.)

RUPERT: Valiant! I found you! *(The horse looks at him.)* All right. You found me. Here – *(Opening the hovel door.)* – you go in here and keep warm.

VIDOW: You can't keep a horse in ze hovel!

RUPERT: Why not?

VIDOW: Vat about ze mess all over ze floor?

RUPERT: Oh, he'll get soon used to that.

ADALICIA: So, Rupert – when does the honeymoon start? I mean, when do we get married? Not that I'm anxious, but “make hay while the sun shines.”

RUPERT: My delicious Adalicia. May I kiss your hand?

ADALICIA: Why? Is my face dirty?

(They kiss. The BARON puts his arms around VIDOW.)

BARON: And am I the first man *you've* ever kissed?

VIDOW: Could be. Vere you in Dusseldorf 46 years ago?

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BARON: I'll be the perfect man for you. You'll be surprised.

VIDOW: *(To audience.)* Not half as surprised as he'll be.

ADALICIA: Well, we're getting married. Hansel and Gretel will have food for the rest of their lives. Potz and Panz have gone back to baking. The Evil Baron has turned nice and will marry the Vidow. The Evil Witch has gotten her “just desserts”. It looks like everyone is going to live happily ever after.

RUPERT: So it seems. Say, this must be it, then.

ADALICIA: Oh, no, it isn't!

VIDOW: Oh, yes, it is!

HANSEL/GRETEL: Oh, no, it isn't!

RUPERT: Oh, yes, it is! This is –

ALL: The End! *(Or “Ze End!”, depending on your accent.)*

(MUSIC: No. 16: THIS IS THE END.)

VILLAGERS: THIS IS THE END!
WELL, MAYBE NOT THE END,

IT'S THE BEGINNING – OF THE END.
IT'S THE BEGINNING – OF THE END.

IT'S NOT THE END!
IT'S CLEARLY NOT THE END
'CAUSE WE'RE STILL SINGING – AT THE END.
'CAUSE WE'RE STILL SINGING – AT THE END.

WE'VE AT LEAST ONE MORE VERSE, MAYBE TWO.
AND THERE'S A BRIDGE IN THE MIDDLE TO GET THROUGH.
BUT WHEN WE GET TO THE END, YOU WILL KNOW
THAT IT'S THE END.

THIS IS THE END!
WELL, IT'S CLOSER TO THE END.
WE'RE CLOSER NOW TO THE END.
WE'RE SO MUCH CLOSER TO THE END.

WE'RE NEAR THE END!
THOUGH IT'S STILL NOT QUITE THE END,
WE'RE GETTING CLOSER TO THE END.
SO MUCH CLOSER TO THE END.

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THIS IS THE LAST VERSE WE'LL SING AND WHEN WE DO,
THERE'S STILL THE BRIDGE IN THE MIDDLE TO GET TO.
BUT WHEN WE GET TO THE END, YOU WILL KNOW
THAT IT'S THE END!

BRIDGE!

HANSEL /GRETEL: ZERE'S A MORAL TO ZIS SCHTORY:
DON'T GO VAND'RING IN ZE VOODS.

VIDOW/BARON: IF YOU DO, YOUR MUM VILL (WILL) VORRY (WORRY),
EVEN IF IT TURNS OUT GOOD.

RUPERT/ADALICIA: EVEN IF YOU FIND TRUE LOVE,
DEEP WITHIN A WOODED GROVE,

POTZ/PANZ: *(Entering.)* YOU MAY ALSO FIND YOUR END!

LADY MALEVOLA: *(Entering.)* WHEN WITHIN MY LAIR YOU WEND!

ALL: THIS IS THE END!
WE'RE NEARLY AT THE END.
IT'S NOT THE MIDDLE OF THE STORY, IT'S THE END.
AND IF YOU WANTED MORE, WELL, SORRY, IT'S THE END.

THIS IS THE END!

WE'RE SO VERY NEAR THE END
WE'LL ALL BE HAPPY EVER AFTER AT THE END.
SO VERY HAPPY EVER AFTER AT THE END.

WE'VE JUST THIS FINAL SECTION,
MAYBE EIGHT BARS AT THE BEST,
AND THEN A LITTLE CODA
(THAT'S THE PART THAT ENDS THE REST.)
AND NOW WE'RE HERE
AT THE END,
WE REPEAT AND WE BUILD
WE REPEAT AND WE BUILD!
AND IT'S THE END!

The end!

*(Lights to black. MUSIC No. 17: CURTAIN CALL
/FINALE ULTIMO. Lights up for bows. The music changes
and the COMPANY line up as if for a kick line and sing:)*

ALL: THIS IS THE END...!

VIDOW: Wait! It really is ze end. Zere's no more schtory. So, you go home und
tell all your friends wat a good time you had in Scholtzenpanz. Und now,
zere's only vun sing left to say: Goodbye, children!

*(Hopefully, the children answer: Goodbye, Vidow! All bow
one more time and exit. MUSIC No. 18: AUDIENCE
PLAYOUT.)*

END OF PLAY