

An Excerpt from CINDERELLA ACT I Scene 1. In the Town

Previously the Fairy Godmother has introduced herself and set the scene inviting the audience to the town near to where Cinderella lives...

Following a lively SONG...

Enter BUTTONS

BUTTONS: Hello everyone

ENSEMBLE: Hi, Buttons!

BUTTONS: (To audience) Hello Boys and Girls, my name is Buttons. Can you guess why? That's right! I do have a lot of Buttons and it takes me ages to polish them all! It's lovely to see you all here and I'd like you all to be my new friends. Would you like that? I know, every time you see me and I shout out Hiya boys and girls, you shout Hiya Buttons! Then I'll know we are 'best' friends! Shall we try it? Hiya boys and girls! Did you do it? (...etc as necessary) That's good! Now we are friends I'll tell you about myself. I work for Baron Hardup and his daughter, Cinderella. She really is lovely!

ENSEMBLE: Ooooh!

BUTTONS: Okay, That's enough from you lot. Shh! **(To audience)** Shall I tell you a secret? I don't want everyone one to know but now we are best friends it is okay. I ... I lo... lo... love Cinderella and one day I am going to tell her and ask her to marry me!

ENSEMBLE 1: What are you talking about Buttons?

BUTTONS: Oh, nothing! I was just chatting to my new friends.

ENSEMBLE 1: Has Baron Hardup come back from * local town* yet?

BUTTONS: He's on his way but he's been detained. He is going to give us all a big surprise.

Enter the Brokers men, GETTYN and GRABBIT who carries a bag on which is written 'GETTYN and GRABBIT BROKERS'

BUTTONS: Now this is a surprise I wasn't expecting yet. Can we help you sirs?

GETTYN: I do hope so young man. Let me introduce ourselves. We are partners and-

GRABBIT: ...and we are...

GETTYN: Be quiet! I'm talking!

GRABBIT: But I was only g....

GETTYN: Shh!

GRABBIT: But...

GETTYN: Shh! Who is senior partner? Now what was I saying?

ENSEMBLE 1: 'Be quiet'.

ENSEMBLE 2: 'I'm talking'

ENSEMBLE 3: Shh!

BUTTONS: Yep, that's what you were saying!

GETTYN: We are Gettyn and Grabbit, Brokers men.

GRABBIT: We are looking for Hardup Hall.

BUTTONS: Oh dear, I thought you might be. You go that way **(points)** about a mile, turn left, walk through the woods half a mile, turn right, past the big oak tree, turn left, then take the path to the right and... there you are!

GETTYN: That way? **(Points)** Come on Grabbit, we've got debts to collect. Follow me. **(Exits)**

GRABBIT: Wait for me! **exits**

ENSEMBLE 4: That's not the way to Hardup Hall. They'll get lost in the woods!

BUTTONS: That's the idea! I need time to think. This is bad news for the Baron. I hope he brings us all some good news.

ENSEMBLE 2: Don't tell me he is actually going to pay all the money he owes everyone!

BUTTONS: Well, you never know! He here comes. **(Enter BARON)** Good afternoon Baron. I hope you have managed to sort out your little problem?

BARON: Hello Buttons, Hello everyone. I might have solved my little problem but ended up with a bigger one! So I've some good news and some bad news...

BUTTONS: Oh dear! Maybe you'd better give us the good news first.

BARON: Well, you know I am somewhat short of money don't you?

BUTTONS: As you haven't paid me for weeks, I did have a suspicion... yes...

BARON: So I decided to find myself a rich widow... and... I found one!

BUTTONS: That's the good news then?

BARON: Yes. I thought so. She wanted a title and I needed her money so we made a bargain.

BUTTONS: What kind of bargain?

BARON: We got married!

BUTTONS: Congratulations! Good news everyone, Baron Hardup has remarried!

ENSEMBLE: Hurray!

BARON: Thank you... but there's a catch...

BUTTONS: Ah! This will be the bad news, then?

BARON: Things haven't quite worked out as I expected. I thought I had married Miss Right. I just didn't know her first name was Always! She also didn't tell me she had two daughters, and I can't even begin to describe them! Buttons, what have I done?

BUTTONS: I'm sure things can't be as bad as you think.

GRIZZLIE: (*Off Stage*) Move yourself! I want everyone to see me first.

GROTTIE: Clam up, fish face! Why would anyone want to look at you?

Enter BARONESS, GRIZZLIE and GROTTIE

BARONESS: Girls! Girls! Do show some decorum... please! You are now the daughters of a Baroness.

BUTTONS: See, things aren't as bad as you think... They're worse!

BARONESS: (*To BARON*) There you are! (***Jabs fingers in his chest***) We must go down to the town ***he*** says... we need to meet the locals ***he*** says... It isn't far, ***he*** says... we can walk ***he*** says... We must have walked at least a mile and my feet are killing me!

GRIZZLIE: Oh Mumsy- wumsy, so are mine.

BUTTONS: Oh Crumbs... tell me this isn't true?

BARONESS: Who are you?

BUTTONS: I am Buttons and I work for the Baron.

BARONESS: Well now you work for me!

BARON: May I present to you all... my new wife Baroness Hardup and her daughters!

GROTTIE: Beautiful daughters!

BUTTONS: You are joking? They are not beautiful?

GRIZZLIE/GROTTIE: Oh yes, we are!

BUTTONS: Oh, no you are not!

GRIZZLIE/GROTTIE: Oh yes, we are!

Audience participation

GRIZZLIE: Oh ... Button it Buttocks!

BUTTONS: It's Buttons, **Buttons!**

GRIZZLIE: I'm Grizzlie

GROTTIE: And I'm Grottie.

GRIZZLIE: (To audience) Hello handsome? Who is that with you? – Oh, it's your girlfriend? Well darling, whatever kind of look you were going for, you missed! Aren't there any decent men in this town? If I have to live in this dump, then I must have some excitement.

GROTTIE: Me too. Looking at this lot **(to audience)** there isn't one who can match my beauty and breeding. My make- up is Yve Saint Laurent and perfume by Chanel... pure class!

GRIZZLIE: More like make-up by Polycell and perfume from the canal! Pure crass! Listen up, rubber lips once the boys set eyes on my figure, you won't stand a chance! I shall just give them the eye **(winks at audience)** and they'll fall at my feet.**(Picks on someone in audience)**What's your name? *John* Oh Hello... are you free? I'm available!

GROTTIE: And cheap!

BARONESS: Girls! Please, remember you are ladies. **(To ENSEMBLE)** What are you lot gawping at? Haven't you got homes to go to? Clear off! **(ENSEMBLE exit)** Hey you, Press-studs or whatever your name is, come here.

BUTTONS: It's Buttons!

BARON: Yes, my beloved, his name is Buttons.

BARONESS: Who asked you? And I'm not your beloved! We made a bargain, don't you forget and love has got nothing to do with it? Now you B... Bunnions-

BUTTONS: It's Buttons!

GRIZZLIE/GROTTIE: Yeah, whatever!

BARONESS: You are impertinent! You are merely a servant and should know your place. I am now a Baroness and I know mine. When you speak to me you should say - yes Baroness, or no, Baroness. Do you get it?

BUTTONS: Three bags full, Baroness! Oh –err I think I am going to get it!

BARONESS: How dare you!

He ducks as BARONESS tries to hit him and GRIZZLIE gets hit instead

GRIZZLIE: You hit me, Grotbags! Take that. **(Pushes GROTTIE)**

GROTTIE: I didn't touch you! But I'm going to now!

BARONESS: Stop it both of you! **(A horn is heard)** What's that noise?

BUTTONS: It is probably the Prince out in the forest.

GRIZZLIE: Oh Mumsey, can we go to forest and meet the Prince. Can we? Can we? Please, please, pretty please.

GROTTIE: Velcro or whatever your name is, show us the way. Make yourself useful. You work for us now.

BUTTONS: Oh what joy!

BARON: You said you were tired and if you go into the forest you will have twice as far to walk back to Hardup Hall. Shouldn't we go back home. My daughter Cinderella will wonder where we all are.

BARONESS: No, she will be too busy. She has the washing to do, ironing to finish, beds to make, carpets to clean, floors to mop, fireplace to clean out, the yard to sweep and that's only for starters! That girl will do as she is told unless she wants darling Daddy locked up for not paying his debts.

BUTTONS: Boo! Boo! **(Audience participation)**

BARONESS: Oh be quiet! If I, or my darling girls get tired then you, my sweet, or ...Fasteners... whatever his name is-

BUTTONS: It's Buttons! Buttons! How hard can it be?

BARONESS: ... can have the task of carrying us back to Hardup Hall. We want to meet the Prince and show him what we'd made of?

1. SONG: BARONESS and UGLY SISTERS then exit

BARON: What's it worth to lose them in the forest?

BUTTONS: You wish! Come on! Let's fight the good fight against these harpies!

BARON: What have I done? Oh my poor Cinderella. What is to happen to us?

GRIZZLIE: (Off stage) BUTTONS!

BUTTONS: Oh my, she got my name right! Maybe things are looking up!

GROTTIE: My feet hurt- you can carry me!

BUTTONS: There again... maybe not. Bye Boys and Girls, see you later! (***They exit***)