

RED RIDING HOOD



A Family Pantomime

By

Simon Ives and Steven J Yeo

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Cast of Characters

<u>Red Riding Hood:</u>	(F)	Principal Girl.
<u>Fairy Bountiful:</u>	(F)	Good Fairy.
<u>Scavenge:</u>	(M/F)	Evil Witch.
<u>Jack/Wolf:</u>	(F)	Principal Boy.
<u>Dame Snipalot:</u>	(M)	The Dame.
<u>William:</u>	(M)	A Woodsman/Lumberjack.
<u>Billy:</u>	(M)	Dame's son.
<u>Squire Square:</u>	(M)	Town Mayor.
<u>Marie:</u>	(F)	Squire's daughter.
<u>Min:</u>	(M/F)	Traveller/ comic relief.
<u>Max:</u>	(M/F)	Traveller/ comic relief.
<u>Granny:</u>	(F)	Old lady who lives in the woods.
<u>Delivery person:</u>	(M/F)	Delivers parcels.
<u>Cheeky Chappie</u>	(M)	Young member of chorus.
<u>Chorus:</u>	(M/F)	To also play villagers and hair salon customers and crew if required.

5 Female, 5 Male, 4 Male/Female plus chorus.

ACT I

Scene 1 - Prologue

SETTING: The main stage is set to the market scene.

AT RISE: The main curtains are closed. Enter front of tabs FAIRY BOUNTIFUL stage right and SCAVENGE stage left.

(A battle between the good FAIRY BOUNTIFUL and the evil witch SCAVENGE is happening. Flashes of lightning and sounds of thunder and ricocheting can be heard.)

BOUNTIFUL
Accept defeat, Scavenge. Accept and I shall let you live.

SCAVENGE
Ha! I am not done yet! With my evil spells I will conquer you goody-goody magic. Oh yes, I will!

BOUNTIFUL
Oh no you won't.

(Both encourage the audience to join in with them back and forth until SCAVENGE says the next line.)

SCAVENGE

Curse you, Bountiful I am not done yet.

BOUNTIFUL

But you are. Your evil shall no longer taint the town of Stanleyton.

SCAVENGE

Very well. Then henceforth I shall claim the forest as my home!

(Lights flash and an explosion is heard. Lights down. SCAVENGE exits stage left. Lights up.)

BOUNTIFUL

(Exhausted)

'Tis done. The evil Scavenge shall trouble the townsfolk no more, so long as they are wary in the woods. I do believe this calls for a celebration.

(CURTAINS)

(The Curtains open to reveal the village square of Stanleyton. THE CHORUS, RED, BILLY, SQUIRE and MARIE sing Celebrations.)

(RED, BILLY, SQUIRE and MARIE exit. William the Woodsman and his son Jack enter.)

CHORUS #1

Morning William, morning Jack! Good news about the witch isn't it?

WILLIAM

It certainly is. She'll not bother the townsfolk again.

CHORUS #1

But aren't you scared that she'll attack you in the forest?

WILLIAM

Hardly. If she comes near me, I'll cut her head off.

(Mimes action with axe
causing people to jump out
of the way.)

JACK

Careful Dad. It's the witch you want to give the chop to, not these good people.

CHORUS #2

Excuse me. I'm new to the town. What is it that you do exactly?

WILLIAM

I'm William the woodsman and this is my son Jack. He's a chip off the old block.

CHORUS #2

A woodsman? Is that a bit like a lumberjack?

(Groans from the rest of the chorus.)

WILLIAM

Why yes, it is, and I just happen to know a song about that.

(A piano strikes the opening
chord of I'm a Lumberjack and
I'm Okay. William starts to
sing.)

WILLIAM (Cont.)

I'm a lumber...

(DAME rushes in with RED RIDING HOOD,
interrupting the song.)

DAME

(To Chorus)

Hello everyone, and how are we?

THE CHORUS

Hello Dame Snipalot.

DAME

(She goes to WILLIAM)

Well hello big boy. I say! What an impressive chopper!

WILLIAM

(Embarrassed)

Erm, yes, well. I'd best be off. I'll see you back home Jack.

JACK

Okay Dad. I'll pick up something for tea.

DAME

Oh, isn't he a nice boy?

(Suddenly notices the audience.)

Ooh, I say. Look at you lot. Are you auditioning for an undertakers fan club? I've seen more life in *[Local supermarket]* on a wet winter Wednesday. Now then, I'm Dame Snipalot and I run the local hairdressers. This is my daughter Red Riding Hood.

(To audience.)

What's that? Why do we call her Red Riding Hood?

I said why do we call her Red Riding Hood?

(The audience responds.)

Ooh, please yourselves. Well, I've never really thought about it. Her full name is Philomena Concertina Wilhelmina Artichoke Snipalot. Maybe that's why.

RED

Actually it's a nickname because I'm always wearing this red cloak. My dear old Gran knits me one every year for my birthday.

DAME

Anyway, now you know who we are, who are you?

(Asks individuals their names.)

Oh, we can't keep this up or we'll be here all night. Then again, I've read the script. It's a bit confusing I must say. So if we get to a confusing bit, I'll call, oi you lot, and you shout back, what's the plot? Shall we give it a try?

(DAME and RED get the audience to join in.)

DAME (Cont.)

Well that's very good. Well done. You know I've had a very trying day so far.

RED

Really? How come?

DAME

The butcher tried, the milkman tried, the man in the chippie tried..

RED

What did you get from the butcher's?

DAME

A sheep's head. I told him to leave the eyes in.

RED

What on earth for?

DAME

It'll see us through the week. Then I bought myself a pair of knickers made out of a Union Jack flag. Very patriotic I thought.

RED

Are they comfortable?

DAME

They are now I've taken the flagpole out. Oh, I was so exhausted after traipsing round the town, that I popped in for a relaxing sauna. It was all steamy and white tiles so I stripped off and lay down. When the steam lifted, I realised I was on the counter of the chippie.

RED

And he tried it on.

DAME

Yes. He was all fish fingers and thumbs. So I battered him. I thought to myself I've got to get out of this place. I mustn't flounder or eel get me.

RED

You forgot to tell us about the milkman.

DAME

Oh, he bottled it. Right, time we were opening up the salon.
See you lot later!

(DAME and RED exit to the chorus
from, Do You Think I'm Sexy.
Enter SQUIRE SQUARE and his
daughter, MARIE.)

CHORUS #3
That reminds me, I must get my hair done later at Dame
Snipalots.

CHORUS #4
Yes, me too. Look out! Here comes Squire Square and his
daughter Marie. Don't let him catch us gossiping.

(The CHORUS grab the brooms and
start to sweep the village
square in the background.)

SQUIRE
But why won't you even consider marrying him? He is a Te Witt
from a long line of Te Witts with substantial holdings
throughout the land.

MARIE
I don't care what he's holding, father, he's 64! And he's a
twit!

SQUIRE
What's a little disparity in age?

MARIE
Oh! I've told you before. I shall not marry for money. It
will be true love or nothing.

SQUIRE
Well that hasn't got us very far yet has it? There was the
innkeeper's son, that soldier chap and the pedlar.

MARIE
Every one of them a dream.

SQUIRE

Yes, every one of them dreaming of getting their hands on your money. My money, more precisely. And what a state they left you in every time. Heartbroken, constantly crying, not eating for days.

MARIE

I don't care! I shall marry for love or not at all. I want the full works; fanfares and bells ringing and birds singing, just like it should be.

(Disappears into the crowd)

SQUIRE

Sounds like "not at all" at this rate..

(Squire exits. Enter Billy.)

BILLY

Hiya kids! You enjoying yourselves? Really? What have you got on your iPhones then? I love all the latest gadgets and stuff, don't you? Not everyone gets it though. I asked my Mum for a tablet for Xmas and she gave me an aspirin. All wrapped up it was. I'm Billy by the way and Dame Snipalot is my dear old Mum. I'm the beauty specialist in the salon. Well, I wash the hair and sweep up. I don't remember my dad.

(Encourages "aahs" from the audience.)

I expect wherever he is he's looking down on us.

(Encourages audience for more reaction.)

Oh no he's not dead, just very patronising. When I was younger Mum made me walk the plank. We couldn't afford a dog.

(Spots Marie in the crowd.)

Oh, Hello Marie. What are you up to?

MARIE

Looking for love as ever.

BILLY

You don't have much luck on that score, do you? I remember the innkeeper's son.

MARIE

Gentle John, just perfect with his gorgeous eyes.

BILLY

Just how I like them. One either side of his nose. Then there was that potty peddler, Paul.

MARIE

Perfect hair.

BILLY

Yep. Mainly on his head but all the way down his back too.

MARIE

And Georgie, my gallant grenadier.

BILLY

Always ready to go on manoeuvres. John, Paul and George eh? Just need a Ringo for the full set, a proper Beatle drive!

DAME O/S

Billy! That [*Local celebrity*] is in and wants to be made beautiful!

BILLY

Blimey, that'll take some time. When she was here last, she cracked every mirror she looked in. I'd best be off. See you kids!

(BILLY exits.)

JACK

(Bumps into MARIE.)

Oh excuse me. I didn't mean to..

MARIE

Oh that's all right, it was probably my fault.

(They gaze at each other and are obviously stricken.)

MARIE (Cont.)

I don't think I've seen you in town before.

JACK

No, we don't come in often. Father and me. We. I.

(Both speak together.)

Jack:
I'm Jack.

MARIE
I'm Marie.

(Both speak together)

Jack:
Pleased to meet you.

MARIE
Pleased to meet you.

(Both speak together)

Jack:
The pleasure's all mine.

MARIE
The pleasure's all mine.

JACK
We seem to be on the same wavelength.

MARIE
But I hope all our conversations don't go like that.

JACK
I'd like to have lots of conversations with you.

MARIE
Would you? But you don't know anything about me.

JACK
I know you are the most beautiful girl I've ever clapped eyes on! And you know nothing about me. I'm Jack, the woodsman's son.

MARIE
A woodsman's son? Oh.

JACK
I'm sorry it's nothing grander but it's the best I can do.

MARIE

Oh, please don't be offended! I'm from a humble background myself. My father's a, erm, sheep shearer.

JACK

Really? How interesting!

MARIE

Yes, he's your man if there's any fleecing to be done.

JACK

I'm really sorry but I have to go. Can I see you again?

MARIE

Yes, I'd like that. Same time here tomorrow?

JACK

Fantastic!

(They both think about a kiss and move around trying to get into a suitable position. In the end they shake hands briskly.)

JACK (CONT.)

Very nice to have met you.

MARIE

Yes, you too. Until tomorrow, then.

(Jack exits. The chorus have been listening in to the whole conversation.)

CHORUS #1

Here we go again.

CHORUS #2

I think you are right. Look at her, she's head-over-heels.

CHORUS #3

It'll end in tears, mark my words.

CHORUS #4

Although he doesn't know that she's the daughter of Squire Square.

CHORUS #1

That's right! He thinks her father is a sheep shearer.

CHORUS #2

So you think this might be love after all?

ALL CHORUS

Ahhh!

MARIE

What are you gossiping about?

CHORUS #3

We're sorry Marie but we couldn't help overhearing.

MARIE

Oh, that.

CHORUS #4

He's ever so handsome. Do you think this might be the one?

(Song Two. I Won't Say I'm in
love. Sung by MARIE and THE
CHORUS. When the song is
finished all cast exit.)

(CURTAIN)

(END OF SCENE)

Mr Pantomime sample script

ACT I

Scene 2

SETTING: (The main stage remains set to the village square scene. The curtains are closed.)

AT RISE: (Enter SCAVENGE front of tabs, to a rumble of thunder and flashes of lightning.)

SCAVENGE

Oh, do be quiet you horrible lot or I'll turn you all into cubs and brownies. Yes, I know you are, but I'll turn the cubs into brownies and the brownies into cubs and see how you like that! If you don't stop it, you won't get your ice cream at half time. More to the point, madam, you won't get your cocktail from the bar. Light and bitter wasn't it? Now then, you may think that Fairy Bounty Bar has defeated me, just because she has stopped me from entering that piddling little village of Stanleyton. I can't think why anyone would want to live here anyway. It could do with lots more housing and a retail park down on the by-pass, in my opinion. Knock down that church, too. And maybe add an incinerator or two! Ha ha! Yes, this land is far too green and pleasant for my taste. Oh yes, it is.

(Audience participation.)

Anyway, despite what that Fairy Bouncy Bouncy might say, I shall still be able to conduct all my evil plans from my hideout in the forest! She can't touch me there. But for the revenge I have planned, I'm going to need a bit of assistance.

(Exits cackling.)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT I

Scene 3

SETTING: (Village square.)

AT RISE: (VILLAGERS, JACK, SQUIRE and MARIE are all onstage. DAME enters with RED and BILLY.)

DAME

Come on you two. We've got a busy day today and we need to get on.

RED

Oh good. You know I always want to get involved with the family business. I'm fed up just doing the odd jobs. I want to have some responsibility for a change.

BILLY

I'm the responsible one around here. Anything goes wrong, I'm responsible.

DAME

No time for squabbling you two. Now Red, I've got a very important job for you in the salon today.

RED

Oh, good! Do I get to do a wash and cut? Some proper styling? There was that programme on the telly where the contestants had to design a haircut inspired by a piece of architecture.

BILLY

I tried that. I ended up with the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

RED

I'm so ambitious. I want to be the greatest hair stylist in the world and work for [*Local hairdressing salon*].

DAME

Well you'll just have to do what your father always did.

RED

What's that?

DAME

Start at the bottom. Go and give the salon floor a good sweep.

RED

Oh!

(RED exits.)

BILLY

Have you got an important job for me too?

DAME

Oh yes! I want you to see if you can sort out these scissors.

(Takes out a pair of scissors
from apron pocket.)

I need them for cutting hair but Granny's been doing her
toenails again and I can't get them to open.

BILLY

Oh!

(BILLY removes something large
and suspicious looking which
DAME takes and pops in her
mouth. BILLY exits, disgusted.)

SQUIRE

Now Marie, have we got everything we need from the shops?

MARIE

Books from Butchers the Bookshop, beef from Becks the Butchers
and Becks from Books the booze shop.

SQUIRE

Righto, let's head back home.

(Catches sight of DAME.)

Oh I say, what a good-looking young woman.

MARIE

Should have gone to Specsavers, Father.

SQUIRE

(Not hearing.)

What's that? Never mind, you run along. I'll catch up with
you later.

(CHEEKY CHAPPIE runs on stage.)

CHEEKY CHAPPIE

Look out everyone. I've just seen a terrible monster coming this way!

CHORUS #1

Really? What did it look like?

CHEEKY CHAPPIE

It was hideous like a giant chicken.

CHORUS #2

It sounds awful!

CHEEKY CHAPPIE

Yes, a man-eating chicken!

CHORUS #3

(Shouting.)

That's dreadful. A man-eating chicken is coming this way everyone!

(A male member of THE CHORUS
walks on stage eating a chicken
leg.)

CHEEKY CHAPPIE

(Howls with laughter.)

Ha, ha, ha. Caught you.

CHORUS #1

Oh, we can't believe a word you say you little rotter. Off with you.

(THE CHORUS chase CHEEKY CHAPPIE
off stage. SQUIRE moves across
to talk to DAME. MARIE moves to
the other side of the stage
where she bumps into JACK. The
following conversations take
place at opposite ends of the
stage.)

DAME

'Ere! Mind what you're bumping into!

SQUIRE

Oh, dear lady, I am so sorry.

DAME

Well that's all right then.

MARIE

Oh I'm sorry. I didn't mean to bump into you.

JACK

That's okay, I quite liked it! You can bump into me whenever you want!

SQUIRE

Do you come here often?

DAME

(Coily.)

Well, I don't like to say.

SQUIRE

I'm sure I'd remember someone as radiant as you.

DAME

Ooh! You are a one!

SQUIRE

And are you one too?

DAME

There's been rumours.

JACK

I'm glad we've met again.

MARIE

So am I.

JACK

I've not been able to stop thinking about you since we met, oh
(Looks at imaginary watch.)
about twenty minutes ago.

MARIE

Is that all it was? It seems a lot longer.

SQUIRE

(Aside.)

Oh goodness me, I haven't done any wooing for more years than I care to remember. I've forgotten where to start.

(Looks around and spots Jack and Marie.)

Aha! I'll follow that chap's lead!

JACK

Oh, sweet Marie. Your lips are like cherries.

MARIE

Really?

JACK

Yes, so red and luscious.

SQUIRE

(Aside)

Curses missed the last bit. I'll just have to make it up.

(To Dame)

Dame Snipalot, your lips are like cherries.

DAME

Oh yes?

SQUIRE

Yes. Cherry Blossom boot polish.

JACK

And your teeth, they are like the stars above.

MARIE

Do tell!

JACK

They sparkle and shine.

SQUIRE

(Aside)

Nope, missed the punchline again.

(To Dame)

Your teeth, dear lady, are like the stars up above.

DAME

Oh! How so?

SQUIRE

They come out at night.

JACK

And your ears are so delicate, they are like petals.

MARIE

Petals?

JACK

Yes, the lovely petals of a rose.

SQUIRE

(Aside)

What was that last bit? Never mind.

(To Dame)

Your ears are like petals.

DAME

Petals?

SQUIRE

Bicycle pedals.

DAME

Call this wooing? You wouldn't know a woo if it ... Mind you, it's a long time since I've been wooed. It was at a ball and my partner, handsome young devil, accidentally knocked my elbow. "Oh, you've knocked my elbow," I said. "I'm so terribly sorry, madam," he replied and gives me a quick kiss on the elbow. Then a bit later, he treads on me foot. "Oi," says I, "now you've gone and stood on me foot." "Do forgive me, dear lady," he says, and drops to one knee to kiss my foot. Next up he only goes and bumps me backside.

SQUIRE

Did he realise he'd done it?

DAME

The way he ran out of there, I do believe he did.

MARIE

Oh, Jack. You say the sweetest things.

JACK

I can't help it. I'm in love with you. There, I've said it.

MARIE

And I love you too, Jack!

JACK

Will you marry me?

MARIE

Yes, of course I will!

SQUIRE

Hang on. I heard that bit all right, and I'm not having it!

DAME

(Grabs his arm.)

You never know. Play your cards right and ...

SQUIRE

(Storming across the stage.)

Now look here, you're not going to marry my daughter and that's an end to it! She needs someone who can keep me in the custom to which I've become accustomed.

JACK

I thought you said your father was a sheep shearer.

MARIE

I'm always getting sheep shearer and Squire muddled up.

SQUIRE

What do you do for a living?

JACK

I chop down trees.

SQUIRE

Chop down trees? What does that bring in a week?

JACK

(Starting to back away from the Squire.)

£1.25 and as many logs as you like.

SQUIRE

Ridiculous. And look at him! Cowering away in the corner.

JACK

(Cowering.)

I'm not cowering.

SQUIRE

Boo!

(Jack jumps back.)

SQUIRE (Cont.)

He has no money and he can't even stand up for himself.

MARIE

But father ...

SQUIRE

No! I forbid it! Come Marie.

(The SQUIRE and MARIE exit.)

DAME

(Has watched with a confused look on her face. To audience)

Oi, you lot!

(Audience respond with "What's the plot?")

DAME

Well what are you asking me for? As far as I can make out, I've been stood up and you've been stood down. I say, young man. You didn't handle that very well.

JACK

I don't care! I love her and I will marry her.

DAME

Not without any money, you won't.

(Enter William.)

WILLIAM

What's up son?

JACK

Oh, Dad. I've fallen in love with the most beautiful girl I've ever met but her father forbids us to wed.

WILLIAM

Never you mind son. A song will cheer you up and I know just the one!

(Piano strikes opening chord of
I'm a Lumberjack and I'm Okay.
William starts to sing.)

WILLIAM (Cont.)

I'm a lumber...

JACK

No father! That's not the answer! I must leave this village and seek my fortune elsewhere. I need to toughen up and become a real man.

(Possible slapping of thigh at
this stage.)

Then I'll return to claim my bride!

(JACK exits)

DAME

Well there we are. Let's hope he becomes as much of a man as I am a woman!

(CURTAIN)

(END OF SCENE)

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