

Section 1: British Pantomimes

Part 6: Short, Rhyming Pantomimes

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Most of these scripts were written for performance by children's groups, but most have also been played by adults.

The quoted run-times are a guideline only; so much depends on an individual production.

Goldilocks and the Three Bears [Rhyme]

Author Peter Bond

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 7 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short rhyming play. This approaches the border of the British pantomime genre. (Make you own mind up on that point!)

Outline The tale of the Three Bears and the diminutive housebreaker with a novel twist at the end.

Hansel and Gretel [Verse]

Author Peter Bond

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 8 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short rhyming play. This approaches the border of the British pantomime genre. (Make you own mind up on that point!)

Outline A short rhyming play that preserves the villainous role of the father, but takes extreme liberties with other parts of the original tale, casting Hansel and Gretel in a less-than-favourable light.

Little Red Riding Hood [Verse]

Author Peter Bond

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Simple verse play for kids. (A sort of short British pantomime.)

Outline Red Riding Hood, her mother, and her brother Robin (who you may know from other pantomimes) live in a cottage in the woods. One winter's day Red's mother asks her to take a Christmas hamper to her Grandma, but a Wolf is on the prowl, and there's no woodcutter in sight...

Rapunzel [Verse]

Author Peter Bond

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 8 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short verse play (probably, but not necessarily for kids).

Outline A couple offend a witch and hand over their daughter, Rapunzel, to her by way of recompense. Rapunzel is locked-up in a tower, accessible only by a window - with the aid of her hair as a climbing rope. She stays there until she is visited by a handsome prince and the audience is visited by an unexpected plot twist!

Rhyming Aladdin

Author Stuart Arden

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 11. Minimum total without doubling = 12. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act Rhyming English pantomime. Simple sets, mainly simple props (give or take a laundry basket on wheels).

Outline Aladdin, a washerwoman's son falls for a beautiful princess. In his urgent need for wealth, he is tricked into accompanying the wicked Abanaza on an expedition to retrieve a magic lamp. Abanaza traps Aladdin in a cave, but with a lot of magical help Aladdin escapes and (after a few twists and turns) love triumphs.

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Rhyming Ali Baba

Author Richard Coleman

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 5. Minimum total with doubling = 9. Minimum total without doubling = 9. Chorus.

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music One set of song lyrics included, to the tune of 'Wild Rover'. Lazy Bee Scripts does not supply any sheet music with this script.

Style A simple version of 'Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves' told in rhyme, minimal set requirements.

Outline Like all pantomime heroes, Ali Baba is broke. On his way to look for work, he witnesses a band of thieves hiding treasure in a secret cave. He overhears their password and helps himself to their treasure. Unfortunately, the thieves find out and track him down by hiding in storage jars.

Rhyming Beauty and the Beast

Author Richard Coleman

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 12. Minimum total without doubling = 16. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style A simple, humorous rendition of the tale of Beauty and the Beast in one-act and in rhyme.

Outline A merchant goes to trade his wares and bring back gifts for his three daughters. Two of them, greedy and vain, desire jewellery, the other, fair and good-natured, wishes for a rose. But the merchant plucks a rose from the garden of the Beast, and he must pledge the Beast his daughter's hand in marriage to save his own life.

Rhyming Captain Hook

Author Richard Coleman

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 10. Minimum total without doubling = 10. Chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style A comic, rendition of J.M. Barrie's Peter Pan as a rhyming pantomime. Minimal set requirements, but includes a comic cookery scene.

Outline Captain Hook plots his revenge on Peter Pan, with the help of a crocodile and a poisoned cake. Peter Pan, Tonkerbell (the punk fairy) and the crocodile have other ideas.

Rhyming Christmas Carol

Author Richard Coleman

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 8. Minimum total without doubling = 13. No chorus.

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style A simple, humorous rendition of Dickens' A Christmas Carol in rhyme, minimal set requirements.

Outline On Christmas eve, miserly Scrooge is visited by the ghost of his old business partner and three other ghosts. Being shown the error of his ways, he then sets out to make Christmas happy for others.

Rhyming Cinderella

Author Richard Coleman

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 13. Minimum total without doubling = 15. No chorus.

Runtime Around 8 minutes.

Music None.

Style A simple, humorous rendition of the Cinderella story in rhyme, minimal set requirements.

Outline Cinderella is banned from the ball - a point at which a fairy godmother, a pumpkin and mice really come in handy...

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Rhyming Jack and the Beanstalk

Author Richard Coleman

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 8. Minimum total without doubling = 14. No chorus.

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style Jack and the Beanstalk told in rhyme by a narrator and small cast. Minimal set requirements.

Outline Through a combination of poverty and gormlessness, Jack sells the family cow for a handful of magic beans, from which grows a beanstalk reaching to the clouds. Up climbs Jack, with girlfriend Nancy, and at the top they find a giant, a goose, a golden egg and a lot of trouble!

Rhyming Mother Goose

Author Richard Coleman

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 11. Minimum total without doubling = 11. No chorus.

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style Mother Goose (the British pantomime version, more-or-less) told in rhyme by a narrator and small cast. Minimal set requirements.

Outline As a favour from a fairy, Mother Goose acquires a bird that lays golden eggs. Unfortunately, it's a second hand goose, and its previous owner wants it back...

Rhyming Pinocchio

Author Richard Coleman

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 11. Minimum total without doubling = 13. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style A simple, humorous rendition of the story of Pinocchio in rhyme, minimal set requirements. Not quite a full-blown pantomime, but in the same comedic area.

Outline Geppetto makes Pinocchio, whom the Blue Fairy brings alive, however, as part of the spell, if Pinocchio tells lies, his nose will grow! Pinocchio is tricked into joining Stromboli's puppet show. Stromboli plans a show for the Duke which will make him rich, he tries to get Pinocchio to flatter the Duke's court, with disastrous results for the puppet's nose. Pinocchio is trapped, but who will rescue him?

Rhyming Red Riding Hood

Author Stuart Arden

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Not so much a pantomime as a humorous horror story for children! Told in rhyming couplets, including a brief nod to Monty Python.

Outline Red Riding Hood is getting in her mothers way, and is sent off to visit her grandma. Unfortunately, a wolf gets to grandma's house first - unfortunately for the wolf, as he more than meets his match.

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Rhyming Robin Hood

Author Richard Coleman

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 14. Minimum total without doubling = 17. Chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style English pantomime (more or less) as a short verse play.

Outline Robin Hood and his Merry Men hatch a plan to rob the evil Sheriff of Nottingham and give back to the poor. The Sheriff finds out about Robin's plan and invents a scheme of his own to catch the outlaws. A few rhymes, imprisonments and swordfights later, good triumphs once again.

Rhyming Snow White

Author Richard Coleman

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 13. Minimum total without doubling = 13. No chorus.

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style A simple, humorous rendition of Snow White and the Seven Dwarves in verse. Minimal set requirements.

Outline On the run from the wicked queen, Snow White becomes housekeeper to a bunch of diminutive miners. The queen finds her an poisons her, but Snow White is saved by a handsome prince. The sort of thing that could happen to anyone.

The Wrong Pantomime

Author Richard Coleman

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 17. Minimum total without doubling = 21. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act rhyming British pantomime. Minimal set requirements.

Outline It's panto season once again, but nobody is quite sure which show is happening this year! A jumble of characters turn up, rhyming scripts at the ready, and the villains decide to do away with the heroes once and for all, by means of a poisoned cake! But the heroes, as always, may have the upper hand in the end.

Whittington and his Crazy Cat

Author Richard Coleman

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 13. Minimum total without doubling = 15. No chorus.

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music One song suggested, but not compulsory! Lazy Bee Scripts does not supply any sheet music with this script.

Style A simple, humorous rendition of the story of Mr. Whittington and his Cat told in verse. Minimal set requirements.

Outline Coming to London, young Richard Whittington is taken in by Alderman Twickenightly. He finds a talking cat, a treasure map and the Alderman's daughter and together they set out to seek their fortune.