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## **CHARACTER & PLOT SYNOPSIS**

King Rat is threatening to take over London. Only the penniless but brave Dick Whittington and his trusty feline sidekick, Tiddles, can stop the rodent's quest for domination!

Aided by the magic of a very cockney Spirit of London, the more down to earth and questionable 'help' of his mother, Dame Sarah, and his loyal but brainless pal, 'Barrow Boy' Billy, Dick's adventure takes him from the East End of London to distant tropical shores before the final showdown with the villainous King Rat and his henchrats, Nip and Tuck!

Along the way he attempts to win the hand of the lovely Alice, daughter of the bumbling Alderman Fitzwarren and foil the plot of the mysterious, piratical Long John Tin Foil.

Will our hero triumph over these adversities, become Lord Mayor and live happily ever after?

**A new version of the classic tale, brimming with comedy, slapstick and everything you would want and expect from a traditional family pantomime and of course plenty to keep the audience cheering and booing along!**

## **CHARACTER NOTES**

### **Dick Whittington**

*Female*

The hero. A young lad with a heart of gold, seeking his fortune.

### **Alice**

*Female*

The leading female and love interest. Daughter of Alderman Fitzwarren and the apple of his eye. Also the object of Dick's desires. Quite resourceful and feisty!

### **Dame Sarah**

*Male*

Dick's Mother. The traditional Pantomime Dame. Claims to have culinary expertise.

### **Alderman Fitzwarren**

*Male*

A rather foolish and muddled fellow. A London businessman and father of Alice.

### **The Spirit of London**

*Female*

The 'good' supernatural element. Speaks in cockney rhyming slang. A true Londoner from the East End.

### **Barrow Boy Billy**

*Male*

The Simple Simon / link man character. A well intentioned fool and a total berk!

### **Tiddles the Cat**

*Female*

The feline hero of the story. Bright, quick thinking and with probably more brains than the other put together!

### **King Rat**

*Male*

The evil baddie. A rodent plotting grand plans of megalomania!

### **Nip**

*Male / Female*

One of King Rat's henchmen. A rather dim witted accomplice. One half of the comedy double act with his associate Tuck.

### **Tuck**

*Male / Female*

The second of King Rat's henchmen. Even more dim witted than the first. The other half of the comedy double act with his associate Nip.

### **Long John Tin Foil**

*Male*

A Pirate captain who is not as bad as he first appears.

### **Chorus (Adults and Children)**

Townfolk, Pirates, Rats, Natives etc. The script includes a number of small speaking parts and plenty of chorus lines that can be shared out.

## THE PLOT

### ACT ONE

#### Prologue

Front of cloth

**Featuring:** *The Spirit of London, King Rat, Tuck & Nip*

A very cockney, Spirit of London welcomes the audience to the show and tells them that a plague of rats is causing trouble in London and something must be done! King Rat appears with his dim witted henchrats, Tuck and Nip, and taunts her suitably until she leaves promising a solution which will mean that good will triumph over evil!

#### Scene One – London Street, outside the Mean Vic Tavern

Main stage

**Featuring:** *The Chorus as townsfolk, Dame Sarah, Dick, Tiddles, Billy, Alderman Fitzwarren & Alice*

Alderman Fitzwarren, a modestly wealthy merchant who runs a chain of Hostelryes is bemoaning the state of the city and the plague of rats and its effect on business. His daughter, Alice assures him that things will sort themselves out. We learn that he has bought her an expensive necklace as a birthday present and also owns a map revealing the location of buried treasure. Barrow Boy Billy arrives and introduces himself to the audience, followed by Dick and Tiddles for a bit of banter and then Dame Sarah. Dick and Dame Sarah came to London to seek their fortune but it has all gone badly wrong and they are being evicted from their lodgings and forced to live on the street. After some deliberation and interaction with the chorus and the audience, they decide to try the Alderman's tavern in an attempt at getting work.

#### Scene Two – A street, elsewhere in London

Front of cloth

**Featuring:** *King Rat, Tuck, Nip & Children's chorus as rats*

King Rat has gathered his rat gang together and discusses his plan for domination of the city. He has a plan to find and steal a treasure map known to be in the possession of a pub owner in London and he threatens his followers with dire punishment if they fail to find it.

#### Scene Three – Inside the Mean Vic Tavern

Main Stage

**Featuring:** *The Chorus as townsfolk, Dame Sarah, Dick, Tiddles, Billy, Alderman Fitzwarren, Alice, Tuck & Nip*

The Dame, Billy, Dick and Tiddles join a crowd of customers in the pub and pester the Alderman for a job. Dick attempts to chat up Alice with mixed success. Nip and Tuck, spying in the pub, hear about the treasure map and realise this is where the map is hidden.

### **Scene Four – A street, elsewhere in London**

Front of cloth

**Featuring:** *King Rat, Tuck, Nip, Children's chorus as rats & Billy*

King Rat gathers his minions to plot how they will get past Dick and Tiddles to steal the map. Nip and Tuck plan to use a sleeping draft to send them both off to sleep, They sell it to Billy describing it as a 'revitalising tonic'.

### **Scene Five – Inside the Mean Vic Tavern**

Main Stage

**Featuring:** *Dick, Tiddles, Alderman Fitzwarren, Tuck, Nip, Children's chorus as rats, Dame Sarah, Alice & Billy*

The rats are in the tavern looking for the safe. They find it but cannot open it so hide. Dick and Tiddles are shown their duties by the Alderman and he leaves them on guard. Dick drinks the 'revitalising tonic' and falls into a deep sleep allowing the rats to open the safe. Tiddles wakes and fights off the rats but not before they have stolen the necklace and planted evidence on a sleeping Dick to look as if he has been out on the town and neglecting his duties. The Alderman, Alice, Dame Sarah and Billy arrive, awoken by the noise and discover the open safe. Jumping to the wrong conclusions they accuse Dick of failing in his duties and of stealing the necklace himself. He runs off in disgrace determined to prove his innocence

### **Scene Six – The outskirts of London**

Front of cloth

**Featuring:** *The Spirit of London, Dick & Tiddles*

Dick is heading out of town in disgrace and despite the muted attempts by his cat to explain what happened takes a long time to work it out. Tired and despairing he goes to sleep and in his dreams the Spirit of London appears to not only explain that he has been set up but also to tell him to turn again and become Lord Mayor. Dick wakes from his dream and heads back to London to sort things out.

### **Scene Seven – The Docks**

Main stage

**Featuring:** *Alderman Fitzwarren, Alice, Dame Sarah,, Billy, Dick, Tiddles, King Rat, Tuck, Nip, Adult chorus as pirates & Long John Tin Foil .*

The Rats are gathered to discuss what to do next. They have lost the map but decide to hide on board the ship that Alderman Fitzwarren has hired to look for the treasure and grab it when it is found. They scamper off to hide on board. Alderman Fitzwarren arrives. After a brief argument it is decided that Alice, Billy and Dame Sarah will join him on the quest. They are then joined by Long John Tin Foil, the original owner of the map who is eager to retrieve it, and a ragged bunch of his pirate crew. He is the captain hired to sail the ship and he introduces his pirate crew with much silliness. Dick and Tiddles overhear the conversation and Dick presents himself to Long John as a candidate for cabin boy, wearing a suitable daft disguise so his mother and the others won't recognise him. He is recruited and joins the others in a rousing song before they go to sea.

## **ACT TWO**

### **Prologue**

Front of cloth

**Featuring:** *The Spirit of London*

The Spirit welcomes everyone back and recaps the plot. Written in cockney rhyming slang couplets.

### **Scene One – On the Deck of the ship**

Main stage

**Featuring:** *Alderman Fitzwarren, Alice, Dame Sarah, Billy, Dick, Tiddles, Adult chorus as pirates, Long John Tin Foil, , King rat, Tuck, Nip & Children's chorus as rats*

We join the goodies and the pirates at sea. After a bit of banter they clear the deck and Billy discovers Dick in disguise but is sworn to secrecy. There is a slapstick / slosh sequence at the end of which Long John has had enough pretence and confronts the goodies about the map. The Pirates close in on the Dame, Alderman, Billy and Alice and announce their intention to steal it but are then surprised and beaten into submission by the rats who burst out of the hold. Dick however then leaps onto the deck to confront King Rat but is quickly subdued and King Rat takes the map and confirms Dick's protestations of innocence admitting to planting the jewels on him. King Rat announces that the treasure is now his and the rats desert the ship, removing the plug. As the ship starts to sink, the pirates and Long John abandon the ship taking the life boats, leaving the goodies to swim ashore.

### **Scene Two – On the way to the island**

Front of cloth

**Featuring:** *Various!*

The various groups head to the island. A short scene to allow the main stage to be re-set ready for the Island. This is also an opportunity for a dance routine 'under the sea' and although a few suggestions are made this is left to the ingenuity of the Director.

### **Scene Three– The Desert Island**

Main stage

**Featuring:** *The Spirit of London, Alderman Fitzwarren, Alice, Dame Sarah, Billy, Dick, Tiddles, Adult chorus as pirates, Long John, King Rat, Tuck, Nip & Children's chorus as rats*

The Spirit of London welcomes us to the Desert Island and we meet Alice, the Alderman, Tiddles, Dick and Billy washed ashore. They move off to track down the rats and the map. Next we see the Pirates and Long John also searching for the map and then the rats themselves trying to figure out where they are and where they need to get to. Dick manages to grab the map and a daft chase sequence follows involving all the characters and chorus. Dick saves the day by pretending to be god of island and the rats and pirates panic and run off. The others continue in the search of the money...

### **Scene Four – Elsewhere on the island**

Front of cloth

**Featuring:** *Dame Sarah, Dick, Tiddles, Billy, Alderman Fitzwarren, Alice, Scary Native, & Long John Tin Foil.*

Having driven off the rats, the goodies are now in a creepy place on the island where the treasure is to be found. A scary native (the guardian of the treasure), appears for the classic 'behind you' scene. Eventually the treasure is found, but they are then confronted by Long John who announces the treasure is his and ultimately reveals that it was all got by legitimate trade and he and his men are not really as bad as all that. The goodies offer to let him have it back but he gives it to Dick to help his noble scheme to become Lord Mayor and he is recruited as campaign manager. He reveals that the other pirates have re-floated the ship and they can return home in triumph.

### **Scene Five - A London Street, outside the Mean Vic Tavern**

Main stage

**Featuring:** *Spirit of London, Dame Sarah, Dick, Tiddles, Billy, Alderman Fitzwarren, Alice, Long John Tin Foil, Adult chorus as townsfolk, King Rat, Tuck, Nip & Children's chorus as rats*

Welcomed back to London by the Spirit, we find Dick is standing as the only candidate for Lord Mayor, and with a good number of supporters, thinks the job is in the bag! But he has a late challenger in the form of a disguised King Rat and it looks a close run vote with various daft election promises made on both sides. Eventually King Rat is tricked into revealing his true identity and battle commences, King Rat and his followers are defeated and Dick becomes Lord Mayor to jubilant celebration!

### **Scene Six – A street, elsewhere in London**

Front of cloth

**Featuring:** *Dame Sarah & Billy*

**Song sheet** and final business

### **Scene Seven – A London Street, outside the Mean Vic Tavern**

Main stage

**Featuring:** *Everyone*

Final Walk down and couplets