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CHARACTER & PLOT SYNOPSIS

A challenge between the Demon King Mephisto and Fairy Goosedown embroils Dame Mother Goose and her family in a tale of golden eggs and a search for true beauty!

A host of larger than life characters, plenty for the chorus and our usual mix of silliness, songs and slapstick!

CHARACTER NOTES

Jack *Female*

Principal boy. Son of Mother Goose.

Jill *Female*

The heroine. Childhood sweetheart of Jack. An animal expert.

Mother (Gertie) Goose *Male*

The traditional pantomime Dame. Poor, plain but kind hearted.

Silly Billy *Male*

The half-witted second son of Mother Goose. Comedy linkman.

Nifty *Male / Female*

Bailiff / debt collector / henchman for Mephisto. Not too bright – in fact rather dim!

Shifty *Male / Female*

Bailiff / debt collector / henchman for Mephisto. Even dimmer.

Mephisto – the Demon King *Male*

The villain. A wicked magical creature intent on causing misery. He disguises himself as the **Squire Merv Isto** to wreak havoc on the village.

Fairy Goosedown *Female*

A magical fairy on the side of good.

Lucy the Goose *Male / Female*

The family pet and Mother Goose's pride and joy. A costumed role.

Chorus (Adults and Children)

Local villagers and other assorted characters. The script includes a number of small speaking parts and chorus lines that can be shared out.

ACT ONE

Prologue

Front of cloth

Featuring: *Fairy Goosedown and Mephisto*

The show opens with Fairy Goosedown describing the local village inhabited by the poor, plain but kind and happy Mother Goose – a generous and well loved character. The Demon King - Mephisto appears and declares that he can corrupt anyone and challenges the Fairy to a contest – he is sure he can prove that Mother Goose is not as good as she looks. The Fairy leaves and the Demon King explains how he is going to start causing trouble as he has recently become the new landlord to the village as Merv Isto...

The stage is set...

Scene one – The Village Green

Main stage

Featuring: *Chorus (as villagers), Silly Billy, Mother Goose, Lucy Goose, Mephisto (as the Squire), Nifty and Shifty*

Opening with a rousing we meet Silly Billy, the daft son of Mother Goose. He confesses that they have no money and being rent day they could be in trouble when the new Landlord / Squire and his Bailiffs arrive. But fear not for he has concocted a cunning plan to make their fortune, which is quickly disassembled by the assembled chorus who demonstrate that it is not so cunning! He introduces his recurring catch phrase to the audience.

Mother Goose enters. She is worried about the rent but says that money isn't everything – family and friends are most important. She introduces Lucy the goose (cue some very silly egg puns).

Mephisto arrives, disguised as the new Squire with his very dim Bailiffs, Nifty and Shifty, and makes it clear that he wants the rent when he comes back later that afternoon or the family will be evicted. There is concern but Mother Goose has every faith in her other son, Jack, who is off to market with a basket of Lucy's eggs to raise the cash.

Unseen by the others, Mephisto instructs his Bailiffs to make sure Jack never gets the eggs to the market...

Scene Two - A Woodland track

Front of cloth

Featuring: *Jack, Nifty, Shifty and Jill*

Jack is on his way to market with his eggs. After some solo banter with the audience, Nifty and Shifty arrive and try to trick him out of the eggs and end up smashing them. They depart, happy their job is done.

Jack is left with the broken eggs. Jill, his childhood sweetheart comes along. She has just returned from the big city where she has trained to be an animal carer / vet. They sing a love song and head back home to break the bad news.

Scene Three – Inside Mother Goose’s house

Main Stage

Featuring: *Fairy Goosedown, Mother Goose, Silly Billy, Jack, Jill, Lucy, Mephisto, the Chorus (as villagers), Nifty and Shifty*

The Fairy, disguised as an old woman comes visiting. Jack returns, introduces Jill and breaks the news about the lost eggs. Mother Goose is upset but not cross with him ('cos she's such a good hearted person!). Since it is time for lunch they bring on Lucy to lay an egg for a family omelette. While Mother Goose, Jack, Jill and Billy go and prepare dinner, the Fairy, talking pity casts a spell on Lucy so she will start to lay more and better eggs – with a lovely yolk and a golden shell.

Mephisto is lurking in the wings and has a better idea. He casts a second spell to make sure the eggs are real golden eggs. He knows that money will corrupt Mother Goose.

Lucy lays another egg – this time of solid gold. The chorus join in as the commotion increases and they help to collect the multiple eggs that Lucy has started to lay!

The Bailiffs arrives to collect the rent and are shocked to discover the golden eggs. Mother Goose employs them to clean up the Goose house. Mother Goose pays the rent + a bonus and also gives eggs to the delighted chorus. But will the money start to change her?

Scene Four – Mother Goose’s garden

Front of Cloth

Featuring: *Nifty, Shifty and Silly Billy*

The Bailiffs have been employed to spruce up the Goose house with a lick of new paint. Being inept and directed by Silly Billy, it ends in gunge and mess.

Scene Five – Mother Goose’s Mansion

Main Stage

Featuring: *Chorus (as villagers), Silly Billy, Mother Goose, Jack, Jill, Lucy, Mephisto (as the Squire), Nifty and Shifty*

With the new found wealth from Lucy's golden eggs, Mother Goose has bought / built a mansion and now, as rich as a king, she is throwing a party for all her friends. They all sing a big musical number. Mother Goose ruminates that now she should look for a husband. The others rather tactlessly point out that she may be rich but she is not particularly beautiful.

Mother Goose is left alone and Mephisto (still disguised as the squire) offers her a deal – in return for Lucy he will give her a map that leads to a fabled fountain of youth – she'll get guaranteed good looks to make her complete.

After some consideration she agrees and signs a contract to give Lucy away. Mephisto, triumphant, leaves with the Bailiffs taking away the goose. Everyone else returns, and Jack and Silly Billy arrive just in time to see Lucy being led off. Mother Goose refuses to explain and is very rude to all of them. The scene ends in another big song and dance number.

Act Two

Prologue

Front of cloth

Featuring: *Mephisto and Fairy Goosedown*

A quick recap of where we are. Mephisto is delighted that he is winning – Mother Goose has betrayed her family for the hope of good looks. Fairy Goosedown hasn't given up yet though!

Scene One – The Fountain of Youth

Main stage

Featuring: *Mother Goose and the Chorus*

Mother Goose has arrived at the mystical fountain of youth having followed the map given by Mephisto. Before bathing she sings fantasising about how her life will change. She then goes to bathe. She learns from the keepers of the fountain (*2 roles for junior chorus*) that bathing in the waters takes years off your life! Mother Goose doesn't want all that – puberty, homework, going to bed at 7.30pm etc. and realises she has been a bit of a fool! She heads home deep in thought.

Scene Two – A woodland track

Front of cloth

Featuring: *Lucy Goose, Nifty, Shifty, Mephisto and Jill*

Lucy is not laying as she is rather traumatised by events! The Bailiffs are trying to get her to lay more eggs by relaxation techniques, massage, soothing music etc. but nothing is working. Mephisto is furious and reveals his true identity to them. They are a bit concerned that they are working for someone clearly evil and repellent but have to go along with it all. They sing a song together. By chance, along comes Jill who they abduct so that she can sort out the laying problem.

Scene Three – Mother Goose's Mansion

Main stage

Featuring: *Mother Goose, Silly Billy, Jack, Fairy Goosedown and Chorus*

Back at the mansion Mother Goose apologises to Billy and Jack but is not sure what to do next. The Fairy appears to tell them that Jill has been captured and reveals that Mephisto is really an evil demon king. But she can't sort things out directly – they need to do that. She explains the Demon King's secret that he will lose his power if he uses his magic to benefit himself. The goodies plan their campaign to track down the baddie and sort it all out and with the encouragement of the chorus, and a song, they can set off on the adventure

Scene Four – Near the Demon King’s Lair

Front of cloth

Featuring: *Mother Goose, Silly Billy, Jack and “behind you” creature(s)*

The goodies are heading off to get the Demon King and rescue Lucy and Jill. The traditional scene in a haunted spot with a “behind you” creature!

Scene Five – The Demon King’s Lair

Main stage

Featuring: *Everyone*

The Demon king has his hands full with Jill – she is not co-operating . He clearly has other designs on her too but she is having none of it. He leaves her and Mother Goose, Jack and Silly Billy find her having infiltrated the place. They explain about the magic rule but are then trapped by the Demon King and the Bailiffs returning.

Jill charms the Demon King by pretending she does fancy him. She tricks him into casting a spell which breaks the code and he loses his magic. The Fairy enters to reveal he has lost his power. Mephisto can still beat them though with force and he and Jack fight with weapons but everyone (including Nifty and Shifty who have had enough) rally round to defeat.

Jack and Jill can now marry. The Fairy removes the magic spell from Lucy, so she is a normal goose again (they all have each other and don’t need wealth as they have seen how that corrupts) and Mephisto is punished by marriage to Mother Goose. The show ends with another rousing song!

Scene Six - Song Sheet

Front of cloth

Featuring: *Silly Billy and Mother Goose*

Song sheet and final business

Scene Seven – Finale

Main stage

Featuring: *Everyone*

Finale / walk down and final couplets