

STRICTLY PANTO

Strictly Panto is our most recent production and we've had great feedback from both schools and theatre groups, who love the humour and the way we weave traditional pantomime stories with a reality TV theme. This pantomime contains the longest of all our scripts and there are six long songs and a seven minute dance medley. It's a spoof of *Strictly Come Dancing*, Reality TV talent shows and *The Apprentice*.

We've heard that children's individual performances have surprised you and the most unlikely candidates have stolen the show. Boys particularly like playing the divas and some have thrown caution to the wind and taken on solos! We're delighted to hear that there has been a noticeable increase in confidence and self esteem in participants; and that children have managed to persuade parents, senior staff and local dignitaries to join in the audience participation scene!

The Story

Cinderella and her family hear that the prince is looking for a wife and a TV production company has launched a competition to find one for him. The winner will receive an invitation to a Ball at the palace. Alladin's Bollywood dancers open the show and two ugly sisters hope to become Reality TV stars. The judges, Lords Alan Saccharin, Joseph Dreamboat and Bruno Tagliatelle will choose a winner. A very camp Ringmaster introduces the competitors and causes a degree of chaos as he tries to keep order.

The first competitors, Hansel, a rather feeble boy and his bossy sister, Gretel, describe their enterprising scheme to sell sweets, winning approval from Lord Alan Saccharin. Jack, with his mother, his cow and some beans, travel up from the West-country. He is rendered speechless by Smiley Iris, who gets Lord Joseph Dreamboat's vote. Princess Georgina (Sleeping Beauty) introduces the unconventional fairies that bestowed gifts at her birth. These gifts include the gift of the gab, the gift of kung-fu fighting and a rescue helicopter! Cinderella is a girl who doesn't like to do anything except complain but after some assertiveness training from the princess and the fairies, she discovers a talent for dancing. Her ugly sisters expose their many unpleasant character traits in a rendition of 'Viva la Diva' and Sergeant John is called upon to give dance lessons to the candidates.

Members of the audience are invited to join in as all the characters line-dance in 'Paul Jones' style (a traditional dance mixer). Cinderella wins the competition but, with her new-found appreciation of 'girl power', allows the prince one dance only so the ugly sisters chase him through the audience to win the day!

Scenes

Scene 1

After the Ringmaster's welcome, we meet Cinderella and her horrific family and learn about a competition to win tickets to the Royal Ball.

Scene 2

The palace ballroom is overflowing with pantomime characters who are being auditioned by three famous judges. The prize is an invitation to the Royal Ball. A troupe of 'Bollywood' dancers audition and the Ugly Sisters are convinced they will become **Reality TV** stars.

Scene 3

Hansel and Gretel impress Lord Alan Saccharin with their **Sweet Boutique** and the Ringmaster wants 'in' on the deal as he rounds up some children to over-indulge.

Scene 4

Jack, a West-country boy, meets Smiley Iris from the USA. The Ringmaster buys the cow Mother throws the beans away and the stage is overrun by giants, geese laying golden eggs and vegetables Line dancing to Smiley Iris' song, **C.o.u.n.t.r.y. M.u.s.i.c.**

Scene 5

Princess Georgina gives a very surprising account of her 'back story'. The fairies bestow some unusual gifts at her birth and they all contrive to give Cinderella some '**Girl Power**'

Scene 6

The Ugly Sisters get their turn in the spotlight as they sing **Viva La Diva**. The bemused judges need to see everyone dance so Sergeant John, the dance instructor is called upon.

Scene 7

In this audience participation scene, the Ringmaster invites volunteers to join the characters in a Hoedown. Interspersed with the Line dance, Cinderella and Sergeant John demonstrate various Ballroom dances. Cinderella outshines the professionals!

Finale

The judges have found their star and Cinderella has found her backbone. Although she agrees to one dance with a handsome Prince, she knows the **Hero** is nobody else but her and that amazing things happen **If I Believe**

Cast

Ringmaster :	a central character who controls the action
Cinderella:	a very feeble character with a talent for dancing
Lady Tremaine:	her Stepmother
Drizella and Anastasia:	Ugly Sisters, traditionally played by boys (a tradition that, for the sake of hilarity, we hope will be upheld!)
Lord Alan Saccharin:	an entrepreneur in search of an apprentice
Lord Joseph Dreamboat:	a musical mogul
Lord Bruno Tagliatelle:	an Italian dance legend
Hansel:	a boy with a 'rhyming couplet' problem
Gretel:	his smart sister
Witch:	who gets 'fired'

Jack:	a dim boy from the Westcountry
Mother:	a control freak
Smiley Iris:	a real, 18 carat, no-messin', rootin', tootin' <i>Country & Western</i> singer, sister of Miley Cyrus
Princess Georgina:	an all-singing, all-dancing, mega-charged Kung-Fu fighter with a surprising history
King William:	
Queen Catherine:	her delighted parents
Good Fairies:	Violet, Bluebell, Dandelion, Tinkerbelle, Cactus feisty and funky sprites with a good line in assertiveness training
Wicked Fairy:	to spoil the party
Sergeant John:	the sergeant at arms of the palace ...instructor dance instructor

A large group of characters from any traditional pantomime story to include giants, a goose, a cow, Little Red Riding Hood and a few Handsome Princes

Stage Hands and TV Camera Crew

Aladdin and his exotic troupe of eastern dancers

A group of children who visit the Sweet Boutique

A group of Line Dancing vegetables and/or Country Bumpkins

Disgusting Forest Creatures e.g. worms, frogs, snails, rats, dragons

The Music

Backing Tracks

We know that children respond brilliantly to our backing tracks. We feel that the high quality recording helps you to present a very professional production and motivates the children to perform in a way that exceeds expectations The backing tracks for Strictly Panto contain some excellent music for dance, with Indian drumming and a long medley for a line dance, interspersed with classic ballroom tango, jive, cha-cha-cha, rock & roll and salsa. You can listen to all the music and songs on our website Audio Gallery and also on **SoundCloud** and **Facebook**.

Vocal guide tracks

The vocal tracks help children to 'pick up' the songs after listening only a few times. For these reasons, we use musical theatre actors to demonstrate character, technique and diction. This makes teaching the songs even easier. Instructions for soloists and groupings are also in the text of the script (and below). As CDs may not be copied, many groups choose to purchase the vocal tracks on CD for the cast and choir. Alternatively, a licence to copy can be purchased.

Vocal score

Because of the sophisticated backing tracks with many special effects that cannot be reproduced on a piano, we have prepared a lead sheet score with vocal line and chords for this musical, instead of full piano accompaniment. If you would like to see more pages from this score than are available on our website please contact: info@firesticksandsong.com or telephone +44 (0) 1803 813977

The Songs

You can listen to samples of all songs on our website – (audio gallery, button icon and again at the bottom of the page for each musical) - as well as on Facebook and SoundCloud.

Reality TV Chorus + Aladdin's troupe dancing 'Bollywood' style, with ethnic drumming

Sweet Boutique Chorus (feature Hansel & Gretel cast) + Ringmaster (rap)

C.O.U.N.T.R.Y M.U.S.I.C. Solo verses = Smiley Iris + Chorus (feature Jack & the Beanstalk cast)

Hero (Girl Power) 1st verse, Cinderella, Princess Georgina + Chorus (feature S. Beauty cast)

Viva La Diva Ugly Sisters with support if needed from whole cast

7 minute dance medley

If I Believe Whole cast with optional solos in first verse if required

From a Choirmaster

"I have a Choir of 110 children. They all love singing your amazing songs. Self esteem and confidence shine through when they perform on stage to their parents. They are always so proud of what they do. So am I! The quality songs and thought provoking scripts captivate the children and they perform with such enthusiasm – it's quite emotional at times!"

Script Samples

Mother: Come on now Jack. It's your turn now. Stand up straight. Look at the nice Lords when you're speaking. Don't mumble.

Jack: OoooArrrr. Orl roit muther.

Mother: Take your hands out of your pockets. Don't sniff ... blow your nose. And take that piece of straw out of your mouth.

Jack: OoooArrrr. Orl roit muther.

Mother: ***[Tries a more refined accent]*** My Lords....my son Jack is a real hard worker. With only the tiniest bit of nagging and only one thrashing an hour he's become a very good market gardener. Isn't that right Jack? Show the nice Lords your veggies.

Jack: OoooArrrr. Orl roit muther. ***[Produces vegetables from a sack OR ushers on a group dressed as vegetables who will lead the Line dance]***

Mother: His carrots are to die for ... his turnips are a delight ... and as for his sprouts? Well ...

Jack: OoooArrrr. Orl roit muther.

Mother: But still, we've been very short of cash, so dear Jack here will have to go off to sell the cow. Now where *is* the cow?

Ringmaster: ***[With audience]*** She's behind you.

Mother: Where is she?

Ringmaster: ***[With audience]*** She's behind you.

Mother: Oh yes. Silly me. Go on now Jack. Off to the market with you. Remember, you have to get as much money as possible for the cow. And don't go talking William to strangers, especially not girls.

Jack: OoooArrrr. Orl roit muther. ***[Jack leads the cow to the side of the stage and meets up with Smiley Iris. While he is talking to Iris, the Ringmaster follows them across the stage to examine the Cow.]***

Mother: To tell you the truth my Lords, I'm a bit worried about him. He's all right at gardening ... but he is a few parsnips short of a bunch, if you get my drift.

Smiley Iris: ***[Cowgirl hat, boots, broad accent etc]*** Yee..Haa. Wa-a-ll what have we here? You seem like a smart young lad.

Jack: OoooArrrr.

Smiley Iris: Oh my ... a West-country boy ... is that righty-right?

Jack: OoooArrrr.

Smiley Iris: Ahm from the West myself ... but the west of the good ole US of A.

Jack: **[Surprised]** Oooo!Arrrr!.

Smiley Iris: Ahm actually rather famous ... or at least mah sister and mah pa are both famous. If I tell you mah name's Smiley Iris can you guess who mah sister is?

Jack: OoooArrrr.

Smiley Iris: She's a singer too like me ... goes by the name of Miley Cyrus...

Jack: **[With Ringmaster and Cast.]** Oooo!!Arrrr!!

Smiley Iris: But I'm a real, 18 carat, no-messin', rootin', tootin' *Country & Western* singer. Ah travels all over the West with mah singin' and mah dancin'. Everyone knows Smiley Iris in the good ole U.S. of A.

Jack: OoooArrrr.

Smiley Iris: You like singin' an' dancin' too, do ya?

Jack: **[Nodding violently]** OoooArrrr.

Ringmaster: **[Interrupting them ... but Jack is too distracted to notice what he is doing.]** That there cow of yours seems like a fine beast. You looking to sell her?

Jack: **[Without taking his eyes from Iris.]** OoooArrrr.

Ringmaster: Well I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll give you these five beans for her. Is that "orl roit" with you? **[Takes the Cow.]** I'll soon sell her on to someone else ... at a real profit.

Smiley Iris: D' yah think you'd like to sing and dance with me, now... li'l ole Smiley Iris.

Jack: OoooArrrr.

Mother: Jack. Come here at once. How many times have I told you not to go speaking with strange girls?

[Jack and Smiley Iris cross the stage holding hands, with Jack gazing gormlessly at Iris.]

Jack: Oi thinks you'm roit 'ansom.

Scene 5

Ringmaster: Our final act for you my Lords ... She calls herself ... Princess Georgina. Call me old fashioned, but she doesn't seem very much asleep, and ... Still, let's not judge too soon.

[Enter King William, Queen Catherine and good Fairies who act out the story, during which Princess Georgina keeps up a running commentary.]

Princess Georgina: I'd better remind you of my beginnings. After all, the back-story is everything! I was a much wanted baby and my birth was attended by all the fairies in the land who came to give me their blessing for my future.

Queen Catherine: ***[Queen Catherine's words of thanks to the Fairies become increasingly doubtful.]*** Thank you dear Fairy Bluebell.

Princess Georgina: Singing ... great. Bring it on... Watch out Lady Gaga. But me ... a drama queen! ... no way.

Fairy Dandelion: I give the baby Princess the gift ofa rescue helicopter! There's not much room for it here... I left it in the garden! She will be heroic, independent and strong willed. She will go her own way but she might have to stop herself from making mischief.

Queen Catherine: Thank you dear Fairy Dandelion.

Princess Georgina: Watch out world ... here I come!

Fairy Tinkerbell: I give the baby Princess the gift of the gab. She will be able to talk her way out of anything, but she will also be able to talk her way in to anything.

Queen Catherine: Thank you dear Fairy Tinkerbell.

Princess Georgina: Yeah.. well this is all coming together so-o-o well. What more could a girl ask for. I mean ... I'm really set up for the future now.

Fairy Cactus: I give the baby Princess the gift of Kung-Fu fighting. I've got a suspicion she's going to need an edge ... something to get her out of trouble.

Queen Catherine: Thank you dear Fairy Cactus.

Princess Georgina: **[To audience.]** You weren't expecting that one were you?

[Enormous flash of lightning and crash of thunder. Wicked Fairy enters.]

Ringmaster: Made you jump did we? Hope so. Anyway, what do we do about this one then? All together now ... 'boo', louder, 'booo', still can't hear you. Right then.

Wicked Fairy: **[Could be a teacher in costume or the Witch from the Hansel & Gretel scene.]** Not so fast. You forgot me didn't you? Where's my invitation to the party? I don't take kindly to being forgotten. No blessing or gift from me. Oh no! A curse is more my style. **[Sneeringly]** When the 'dear baby Princess' grows up she will prick her finger on a spindle and she will die ... Ha Ha Ha. **[Demonic laughter.]**

King William: This is terrible. What shall we do?

Fairy Cactus: Come on fairies ... we've got enough power between us to sort this out. We can't completely dispose of the curse but we can ease it a bit. You won't die, you will just sleep for a hundred years until you are wakened by the kiss of a handsome prince.

Princess Georgina: We all know what's supposed to happen. But after all, I've got my career to consider and I just haven't got time for this. There's no way I'm sleeping for a hundred years and there's certainly no way I'm going to wait for a Prince to come and rescue me! **[Settles]**

down to sleep with the Fairies around her. Stagehands bring back the trees again.]

Ringmaster: ***[To audience.]*** And we haven't got time for this either. When was the last time you saw a Handsome Prince in here? No 'grand openings' or 'ribbon cuttings'? No? Oh well, we'll just have to make do without.
Now, what have we got to wake her up? ***[Looks at the trees.]*** Creatures who live in the forest perhaps.

[Enter Disgusting Creatures – frog, worm, snake, dragon, snail – anything that you have costumes for. Each in turn tries to kiss her and each time she wakes up, shouts at the particular creature and terrifies them with her Kung Fu moves. They run away and SB settles down to sleep again. The Disgusting Creatures are imprisoned in the corner by the Fairies acting together.]

Fairy Cactus: Enough now. Wakey wakey. You've got plenty of oomph to deal with this little lot!

Princess Georgina: ***[Waking.]*** I've had the strangest of dreams ... weird things trying to kiss me ***[To audience.]*** Have you seen anything like that around?

Ringmaster: ***[With audience.]*** They're behind you.

Princess Georgina: What?

Ringmaster: ***[With audience.]*** They're behind you.

Princess Georgina: Urgh! Gross! But I'm not scared of you. You'd better be scared of me though. I could have you! Clear off the lot of you.
[Exhibition of violent Kung Fu move without touching the creatures.] That's the way to deal with them!

Second script sample

Princess Georgina: Fairies... I think there's a gap in the market for you here. There are umpteen panto girls in need of a bit of assertiveness training ... and there's one right here for a start. ***[Pulls over Cinderella.]***
Cinderella: It's no good. I just can't

Princess Georgina: You sound like a sick duck!

Cinderella: Oh what will become of me?

Princess Georgina: Come on fairies ... get yourselves over here and see what you can do with this drippy girl.

Cinderella: I hope what they say will be easy to swallow. After all I'm a girl who doesn't like to chew.

[Fairies lead her to the side of the stage. They have a large flip chart with the heading "Assertiveness", and terms like "Self Belief", "Girl Power", "Positive Thinkin".]

Fairy Violet: Beauty and grace come from inside. You're lovely, not like your sisters. Whatever's inside them, it isn't beauty and grace that's for sure.

Cinderella: But *they* think they're wonderful.

Fairy Violet: That's exactly what I mean. It's inside you not in your frock!

Fairy Bluebell: Music and imagination need a bit of practice. Well quite a lot of practice really, but it's all in your grasp. Practice makes perfect.

Scene 6

Lady Tremaine: ***[Excitedly]*** Yes! This is it, girls. Show them what you can do.

Drizella: Me first. Me first.

Anastasia: No me.

Lady Tremaine: This is no time for bickering. Get yourselves together.

Drizella: Is my dress straight?

Anastasia: Does my hair look OK?

Lady Tremaine: Yes, yes. You're fine.

Drizella: Is my makeup all right?

Anastasia: Does my bum look big in this?

Lady Tremaine: Get on with it!

Drizella: I'm ready.

Anastasia: Me too.

[First verse – Drizella solo (or with group of friends); second verse – Anastasia solo (or with group of friends) ; final two verses – full cast of candidates]

SONG 5 - VIVA LA DIVA

*Gimme gimme gimme the attention that I need
You know I'm greedy for the limelight
I'm only happy when the spotlight falls on me
And everyone can see that it's my birthright
So stop – notice me you'd better give me my own way
Or else I'm sure to scream and shout
And I can keep that up all day
So gimme gimme gimme the attention that I need
You know I'm greedy for the limelight*

*Gimme gimme gimme adulation glory praise
Stand back and gaze upon my beauty
Some say that this is vanity some say that this is pride
I cannot hide it is my duty
To sparkle and to dazzle with a beauty that by far
Outshines the biggest diamond
And the brightest burning star
So gimme gimme gimme adulation glory praise
Stand back and be amazed I'm such a beauty*

*Gimme gimme gimme all the things that they have got
I want the lot in double measure
A green-eyed monster fills my jealous heart with rage
Unlock the cage release the treasure
For I deserve the talent wealth and beauty others find*

*I crave them all and I won't rest
'Till I have made them mine
So gimme gimme gimme all the things that they have got
I want the lot in double measure*

*Gimme gimme gimme 'cause you know that I'm the best
Better than all the rest you'd better believe it
Gimme your devotion don't be stingy with your praise
Don't keep your accolade a quiet secret
Give it up for brilliance and don't stop to take a pause
A girl like me needs just one thing
APPLAUSE APPLAUSE APPLAUSE
So gimme gimme gimme the thing that I love best
Say I'm the greatest yet
And I'll believe it!*

- Lady Tremaine: Well done girls ... I'm so proud of you.
- Ringmaster: I may be sick!
- Lord Saccharin: **[To Ugly Sisters]** You were just appalling. **YOU'RE FIRED!**
- Lord Joseph: You're just wasting your time, and mine. You have no talent at all.
- Lord Bruno: MAMMA MIA ...You are DREADFUL ... like a lot of CATS fighting and SCREAMING!
- Ringmaster: Even the Lords can't save you now! But wait.....it's time for my next important announcement!
My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen; Boys and Girls. This is the highlight of our day. Before the judges make their final decision we need to see you all dance, so you're going to have some instruction from a most famous dancer... our very own Sergeant at Arms.SERGEANT JOHN! Now where is he?

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