

### 'Panto Pandemonium' – a summary

Ben and Sarah (young teenagers – could be played by young adults) go to the theatre to see a pantomime, but the show is cancelled. Everything in Pantoland is in a mess, as the Wicked Witch has stolen the Good Fairy's magic. Ben and Sarah must help put things right! They go to Pantoland to get back the Golden Goose (from Jack and the Beanstalk) the magic slipper (from Cinderella) and Aladdin's lamp, none of which are working properly. Once the good magic is returned to these three special objects the Wicked Witch's disruption can be put to an end. The show is 'hosted' by two theatrical characters called Boo and Hiss, who interact with the audience.

## CAST LIST

BEN & SARAH	(Schoolchildren)
WICKED WITCH	
GOOD FAIRY	
SPOTTY & GROTTY	Assistants to Wicked Witch
BOO & HISS	Two old-style actors, with "H" and "B" badges
MOO & TAIL	Two halves of a pantomime cow
JACK*	(of the Beanstalk)
SEVEN DWARFS	Any size – but could be children
GIANT	(small – could be a child)
CINDERELLA	
MAGNOLIA & APPLE WHITE	The Ugly Sisters
ALADDIN*	
THE PHANTOM OF THE PANTOMIME	
ECHO	
ACTORS 1, 2 & 3	} Chorus parts
PANTOLAND GIRL & BOY	
VILLAGERS 1, 2 & 3	
ORIENTALS 1, 2 & 3	
EXTRA BADDIES, PANTOLAND PEOPLE	
DIRECTOR	} Play themselves!
MUSICAL DIRECTOR	
STAGE MANAGER	

\*The roles of Jack and Aladdin might be played by females as "principal boys"

### **CASTING POSSIBILITIES - The smallest possible cast (with doubles) is 13**

BEN, BOO and HISS are male roles; SARAH, WITCH, FAIRY, and CINDERELLA are female roles. All others can be played by either gender.

**Some doubles and trebles are possible.** Here are some suggestions for multiple playing...

SARAH/DWARF/GIANT	CINDERELLA/PHANTOM/DWARF
GOOD FAIRY/DWARF	MAGNOLIA/ALADDIN/DWARF
JACK/MAGNOLIA or APPLE WHITE	APPLE WHITE/ALADDIN/DWARF
BOO or HISS/MAGNOLIA	MAGNOLIA/DWARF
BOO or HISS/APPLE WHITE	PHANTOM/ALADDIN/DWARF

# Props

Sweets for Boo, Hiss, Jack, Ben & Tail	Magic wand for Good Fairy.
'Boo' and 'Hiss' signs on poles	'Tonight's performance cancelled' notice board
7 plastic spades for dwarfs	Lamp for Aladdin
Glass slipper or shoe for Cinderella scene	Goose to fit under small giant's arm
Two money bags	Two 'stun sticks' (black, with a red button)
24 large "gold" coins	
Referee's whistle.	

For the 'cake-making' scene:

A 'magic' oven, a small table, a large bowl, a recipe book, a large pair of knickers, a watch, a calendar, an extra-strong mint for Apple White's pocket, a tin with nuts and bolts in it, a bunch of artificial flowers, two bags of crisps, a large wooden spoon, plastic ice cubes, a baking tin, and another large bowl containing confetti and glitter.

## Staging Suggestions

The setting for this musical play can be very simple. If the performance venue has curtains with a playing space in front of them, several scenes (as suggested in the text) can be played there, using the front tabs to close off the stage while set changes are made. Where there is an open stage, it is suggested that a multi-purpose setting be devised, with the Pantoland archway hidden by curtains or off-stage before it is revealed. This structure, which has the legend "WELCOME TO PANTOLAND" painted above, could be on wheels, to be brought on or turned as necessary. Once in place, it must be possible to go through this entrance and out of sight in both directions. A foil curtain to cover the opening might be a useful addition. Any other flats might show paintings of fairy-tale castles, woods, rolling fields, etc. The rest of the stage is bare. Several characters need to "hide" onstage - therefore a lowish, free-standing flat suggesting rocks and/or bushes would be useful. Entrance/exit points at downstage left and downstage right are needed. All the action should be as continuous as possible.

## CDs – what's on them?

CD 'A'	-	Vocal Demonstrations of all songs
CD 'B'	-	Instrumental Backing Tracks
CD 'C'	-	Sound Effects / Incidental Music

**N.B. Director's Overview** – Conductor's musical items are in black and grey strips (songs and incidental music respectively). Sound technician's items are indented white strips.