

CINDERELLA

A pantomime by Val Prior



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First performed December 1986 by the Medstead Players - www.medsteadplayers.co.uk.

Cast (in order of appearance)

Buttons
Cinderella (Baron Hardup's daughter)
Baron Hardup
Baroness Hardup
Hortensia (Baroness's daughters & 'Ugly Sister')
Emilia (Baroness's daughter & 'Ugly Sister')
Prince Charming
Major Domo
There (Brokers Man)
Here (Brokers Man)
Fairy Godmother
Footmen & Flunkeys
Chorus: Mice, Snowflakes & Courtiers

Synopsis of Scenes

Scene 1 – The Kitchen at Baron Hardup's House
Scene 2 – Outside The Palace
Scene 3 – The Hardup's Kitchen
Scene 4 – Outside Hardup Hall
Scene 5 – The Hardup's Kitchen
Scene 6 – The Hardup's Kitchen (later that evening)
Scene 7 – Palace Anti-Room / Ballroom
Scene 8 – Palace Anti-Room
Scene 9 – The Hardup's Kitchen (next morning)
Scene 10 – Palace Ballroom (Finale)

Performing Rights

There is no fee for performing this pantomime, but a donation to St Michael's Hospice [www.stmichaelshospice.org] would be appreciated in lieu.

Note - Performance credits should state 'By Val Prior' or 'Originally written by Val Prior' as appropriate.

Scene 1 – The Hardup's Kitchen

Front of curtain (Dark Kitchen scene)

BUTTONS: Hello everyone, Hello children. *(Wait for reply)* I said Hello, Speak to Buttons. *(Setting scene)* This is Baron Hardup's House. It used to be a happy house until the Baron got into debt. He thought it would be helpful if he married this rich widow, but unfortunately she has two of the most awful daughters, *(pulls face)*, right horrors.

The Baron has a daughter called Cinderella, she's beautiful, sweet natured and kind, in fact everything The Uglies are not. You notice I call them 'The Uglies'. They don't like Cinders, they treat her like a servant, always picking on her, making her life a misery (Ahh). I'd do anything to make Cinders happy 'cos I love her, even though she treats me more like a brother. So anytime you see The Uglies pinching or smacking Cinders, I want you to call out to me. Say 'Buttons, The Uglies'. Right let's practice that. *(Practice with audience)*. Then I'll come and help her. Now we'd better get on. *(As he is saying this, lights go on in the kitchen, Buttons turns and joins Cinderella in the kitchen, preparing breakfast)*.

Cinderella is at the fire stirring the porridge. The table is set for breakfast. Buttons helps her then exits. Baron hurries in, glances over his shoulder then moves to Cinderella.

CINDERELLA: Oh! Good morning Daddy *(She puts her arms around him)*.

BARON: Good morning my darling child *(He kisses her cheek)*.

The Baroness bursts in and stands with hands on hips and stares until Baron's arm drops from Cinderella, and he sheepishly moves away and sits at table. Baroness glares at Cinderella.

BARONESS: *(Sharply)* See to the porridge, girl. The minute my back's turned you're fooling about with him. What do you think I keep you for? Eating me out of house and home? I don't know why I put up with it. You mind your work my girl and I'll mind him. *(She moves to table and gestures Baron to move to other seat)* Move! *(Baron meekly slouches to other seat.)*

Hortensia gushes on.

CINDERELLA: Good morning sister.

(Hortensia ignores her, goes to Baroness and pecks her cheek. Cinderella continues stirring the porridge.)

HORTENSIA: *(She speaks with a lisp)* Good morning Mumsey.

BARONESS: Good morning my dear.

Hortensia goes to Baron and kisses him. He winces.

HORTENSIA: Good morning Dadsy.

BARON: *(Very short)* Morning.

Emellia enters slowly, rubbing her eyes and yawning.

CINDERELLA: Good morning sister.

Emellia grunts in reply, pecks mothers cheek, yawns again.

EMELLIA: Morning Mum, Morning Da... *(starts to say Dad but it turns into a yawn. Jostles with sister over place at table, push each other about)*.

Cinderella crosses with porridge.

HORTENSIA: Weally, I don't know what skivies ..., oh..., ah..., servants are coming to.

Emellia yawns rudely. Hortensia glares. Baroness slaps Emellia who pokes her tongue out at Hortensia. Cinderella serves porridge.

HORTENSIA: (*Snapping*) Serve the ladies first, weally!

Cinderella moves to Baroness.

HORTENSIA: The manners of the lower classes are dreadful.

EMELLIA: You ought to know.

HORTENSIA: What do you mean by that wemark?

EMELLIA: You know.

HORTENSIA: I don't.

EMELLIA: You do.

HORTENSIA: Mumsey, she's being horrid to me.

EMELLIA: I'm not.

HORTENSIA: You are.

BARONESS: Girls, Girls try to behave like ladies.

HORTENSIA: (*Sticking her tongue out*) There! Hear what Mumsey says!

BARONESS: This porridge is burnt.

EMELLIA: Not again.

BARON: I think this porridge is very nice.

BARONESS: Trust you to stick up for her.

CINDERELLA: But I stirred it until my arms ached. It can't be burnt. (*Goes and sits in corner of fireplace*).

BARONESS: Bah!

EMELLIA: Bah!

BARONESS AND UGLIES SONG (*to 'Baa Baa Black Sheep'*):

Bah! Bah! Cinderella
Such a row we never heard,
'Cos, Cinderella burnt the porridge,
So we're giving her the bird,
But we are all upper class,
You really must agree,
So we mustn't cuss the servant in high society!

Curtain

Scene 2 – Outside the Palace

In front of curtain.

PRINCE CHARMING: Something must be done, I need a wife, all the eligible girls I meet are so awful. Most of them look like the back of a bus.

MAJOR DOMO: May I suggest, Sire, a ball. Invite all the best families; maybe you'll meet someone then.

PRINCE CHARMING: Yes, a ball at the Palace, that would be fun, I'll draw you up a list. See the invitations go out straight away (*exit*).

MAJOR DOMO: Yes Sire.

Scene 3 – The Hardup's Kitchen

Buttons enters during chorus. He has a letter on a salver with a seal on the back. He takes the letter to Baron and bows.

BARON HARDUP: Yes Buttons.

BUTTONS: A letter, M'Lord, from his Royal Highness Prince Charming.

Exclamation from Baroness, great interest by Uglies. the Baron holds his hand out.

HORTENSIA: (*Running round table*) From the Prince, give it to me, quick.

EMELLIA: No, no, give it to me (*Cinderella watches from stool*).

BUTTONS: It's addressed to the Master; I'll give it to him.

BARONESS: Buttons. (*Loud*) Hand that letter to me! (*holds her hand out*) I'm waiting...well!

BUTTONS: I, err..., the Master.

Buttons shamefaced hands over the letter to the Baroness. The Uglies crowd around her.

HORTENSIA: Oh Mumsey. Do open it quickly, I'm so exited.

EMELLIA: So am I, so am I.

CINDERELLA: (*Echo's from stool*) And I too.

EMELLIA: (*Turns and stares*) What you! (*Baron coughs embarrassed*).

HORTENSIA: You! What's the Prince got to do with you? You're only a servant.

CINDERELLA: Well, it's my Daddy he has written to.

BARONESS: Hold your tongue and get the washing-up done.

EMELLIA: Open the letter and let's see what it says.

BARONESS: Wait, be patient. Oh! ooh! ohhh! ahhh! what do you think?

BARON HARDUP: The electric bill.

BARONESS: No. An invitation to the Palace for myself and my daughters and I suppose you (*indicating Baron*).

HORTENSIA: Oh read it out, Mumsey dear.

BARONESS: Very well. H.R.H. The Prince Charming, commands the attendance of Lord and Lady Hardup and their daughters, at a ball to be held at the Palace tonight at 9 o'clock.

CINDERELLA: *(Triumphant & enthusiastically)* Then I'm invited too. *(Rushing to embrace Baron)* Oh Daddy!

HORTENSIA: Of course you're not invited. It's not a servants' Ball!

CINDERELLA: I am invited. It says Lord & Lady Hardup and their daughters and I'm a real daughter not a step one.

BARONESS: Don't insult your sisters by calling them names, I've a good mind to whip you *(raising hand)*.

CINDERELLA: I don't care.. it's true, they're not real daughters and you're only – second hand.

The Baron & Buttons laugh, the Ugly Sisters are astounded. The Baroness is outraged and rushes at Cinderella.

BARONESS: You little take that! *(Baroness swings arm to box Cinderella's ears)*.

Cinderella bobs down, Baroness smacks Hortensia instead. Hortensia steps back on to Emellia, who retaliates by smacking Hortensia, who howls, Baroness comforts her. Emellia hops around nursing her foot.

BARONESS: There, there precious, Mumsey didn't mean to It's all that Cinderella's fault. Shush, Hush, we'll go and buy some new frocks for tonight.

EMELLIA: What about me?

BARONESS: Yes, you too. We'll all have new things.

EMELLIA: With frills and flowers.

HORTENSIA: And lace and jewels.

BARONESS: The best that money can buy, *(turning to Baron)* and you too, can't have you looking like a scarecrow!

CINDERELLA: Why do you allow her to be so rude to you Daddy?

BARONESS: I'll tell you why! Because he knows which side his bread is buttered and who has the money. You must learn to keep a civil tongue in your head. But I know my duty. I will allow you to go to the ball on one condition.

CINDERELLA: Oh Daddy. I'm coming with you. Oh thank you.

BARONESS: Not so fast. First you must do all your work, washing, dusting, scrub the floor, bake the bread, fetch the wood, clean the windows, make the beds, polish the hall and when you've finished that.

HORTENSIA: Mend my stocking *(pinching Cinderella)*.

BARONESS: And then.

EMELLIA: Wash my undies *(smacks her arm)*.

BARONESS: And when you're finished you can come to the Ball.

Baroness, Hortensia & Emellia exit laughing.

BARON HARDUP: (*wringing his hands*) Oh! if only I wasn't in debt. I wouldn't have had to marry her.

BUTTONS: Silly old Moo!

BARONESS: (*Head round door*) Hold your tongue Buttons, I'll see you have plenty to do outside. I don't want you helping her (*indicating Cinderella*), and now that's settled, we're off to Town to spend my money. Come along, Husband. (*Baroness exits*).

Baron comforts Cinderella.

BARONESS: (*Voice off*) Egbert Hardup!

Cinderella sits dejectedly on stool.

BUTTONS: Miserable old bag. That invitation was as much for you as the others. You know why she doesn't want you to go, don't you? Why with all their money and fine clothes they can't hold a candle to you.

CINDERELLA: But it's no good I shan't be able to go I'll never finish all that work.

BUTTONS: Not by yourself you won't, but with me and my friends to help you will.

CINDERELLA: Oh you are so kind Buttons. I wish you were my brother, but Stepmother said ...

BUTTONS: We aren't going to worry about what she said. Come, the sooner we start, the sooner we finish.

CINDERELLA: Oh! Buttons, do you really think we can do all that work? You are so kind to me.

Buttons sighs and fetches a broom, a chorus of mice or rats come on and help work in a dance to 'Walk of Life'.

BUTTONS: (*At end of routine*) If only Cinderella didn't think of me as 'Good Old Buttons'.

Mice gather round and say Ahh!

Curtain

Scene 4 – Outside Hardup Hall

The Brokers Men enter in front of curtains (boo-hiss from audience).

THERE: My names Mr. There and this is Mr. Here, we're the Brokers men – debt collectors.

HERE: This must be the place, Hardup Hall.

THERE: I hope so, my feet hurt, all this tramping around debt collecting.

HERE: What's the name of the party?

THERE: Baron Hardup.

HERE: All these aristocratic types never have any money.

Song and dance – 'Money Money' from Cabaret.

THERE: That's enough of that. Back to work, Here.

HERE: Where?

THERE: Here.

HERE: Here. No you're There.

THERE: No you're Here, I'm There.

HERE: I know I'm Here, but we're there.

THERE: I'm there at last.

HERE: Oh, do stop it for goodness sake.

THERE: OK now to work.

Scene 5 – The Hardup's Kitchen

Cinderella is finishing the mending.

BUTTONS: *(Enters)* Nearly finished?

CINDERELLA: Yes, If you could just move the table for me? please.

BUTTONS: I'd do anything for you.

CINDERELLA: *(laughing)* Oh you are a fool.

Buttons pulls table backwards and bangs into Baroness who has entered with boxes and bags. She smacks him.

BARONESS: What are you doing, clumsy boy?

CINDERELLA: He's helping me.

BARONESS: I told you to do it yourself. Now you will go to your attic and stay there until tomorrow. *(Baroness raises her hand and chases her off stage).*

Hortensia & Emellia enter with lots of parcels.

HORTENSIA: Let's sort our things out, then do our faces.

EMELLIA: I'll get the face packs ready, we must look our best tonight. *(Emellia gets bowls, towels and cream ready. The business of messing about with face packs. Go into song – 'Sisters, sisters there were never such devoted sisters').*

Bokers' Men are seen looking in window, they appear frightened) by the Sisters. The Baron and Baroness enter.

HORTENSIA: How do we look Mumsey?

BARONESS: Oh, beautiful, don't they Egbert?

BARON: Oh yes, *(pulling a face)* excruciatingly so.

BARONESS: Now you must practice your curtsy. *(The daughters attempt to curtsy with bad results, trip and fall over).*

Knocking at the door, Here and There enter.

THERE: Baron Hardup. I have to serve an order on you for non-payment of arrears on your carriage and horses. We've come to repossess them.

BARONESS: Don't be silly, we need our carriage tonight for the ball. Go fetch my bag. I'll pay the arrears.

Baron meekly brings her bag, Baroness proceeds to pay.

BARONESS: Really it's so demeaning having to handle money. Now be off with you.

Baroness bundles Here and There out. All the time The Uglies have been making eyes at the men.

Curtain

Scene 6 – The Hardup’s Kitchen (later that evening)

Kitchen in dim firelight, Cinderella sitting by fire, sighing.

CINDERELLA: Oh dear, it’s just not fair, I did so want to meet the Prince. It must be wonderful to go to the Palace in a beautiful dress.

Flash of light. Fairy Godmother appears.

Fairy Godmother: Cinderella.

CINDERELLA: Who are you?.

FAIRY GODMOTHER: I’m your Fairy Godmother, I know that your horrid stepmother won’t let you go to the ball.

CINDERELLA: I was invited, but I had to do all the work.

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Never mind dear, you shall go to the ball.

CINDERELLA: Oh Fairy Godmother, but how? I only have these rags.

FAIRY GODMOTHER: We’ll use some magic, but I will need one or two things – Some rats and a pumpkin.

CINDERELLA: Rats, Pumpkin?

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Yes. Go and get the rat trap (*Cinderella brings rat trap*).

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Now go to the larder and fetch a Pumpkin. (*Cinderella does this too. Lights only on Fairy Godmother, Fairy Godmother waves her wand*).

Pumpkin vanish - chair appear,
In place of rats - footmen appear,
Servants at my fairy call,
To take Cinderella to the ball.

Flash. Sedan chair and livered footmen appear.

CINDERELLA: Oh how marvelous Fairy Godmother, but what about my rags?

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Mm! I’ll need help from my friends (*waves wand*).

Mice appear singing ‘we will make it, we will mend it’. They bring on dress, jewels, wig and slippers and dress Cinderella.

FAIRY GODMOTHER:

Fall the rags and change to silk,
Shoes of gold and jewels rare,
To adorn Cinderella, arms and hair.

CINDERELLA: Oh Fairy Godmother it’s beautiful, I can’t thank you enough. (*Cinderella goes to, sedan chair and enters*).

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Just one thing. Remember Cinderella, at the stroke of midnight, everything returns to how it was Don’t forget.

CINDERELLA: I won’t Godmother. Goodbye and thank-you.

Flash and black out.

Curtain

Scene 7 – Palace Anti-Room / Ballroom

Gauze curtain is used to separate stage, anti-room front stage, dances in the ballroom at back.

The prince enters with Major Domo.

PRINCE: Have all the guests arrived?

MAJOR DOMO: Most your Highness - The Baron is late.

PRINCE: A charming old man, who is he coming with ?

MAJOR DOMO: His second wife and stepdaughters.

PRINCE: Ah! Are they beautiful?

MAJOR DOMO: No sir – ugly.

PRINCE: Oh dear. I suppose he married for money.

MAJOR DOMO: Yes, she's loaded Sire.

Footman in ballroom announces 'Baron and Baroness Hardup', they enter, curtsy and bow. 'The Honorable Emellia & Hortensia Hardup', they trip down steps.

PRINCE: Your servant Ladies.

HORTENSIA: Oh it's the Prince *(both giggle)*.

EMELLIA: Oh isn't he lovely.

PRINCE: I hope you enjoy the ball Ladies.

HORTENSIA: *(Simpering)* Do you like to dance Princey?

EMELLIA: I saw him first.

HORTENSIA: No you didn't *(pushing each other to get to front)*.

EMELLIA: Yes I did *(pushing each other to get to front)*.

PRINCE: *(Overwhelmed)* Excuse me ladies, I must attend my guests *(bows)*.

Music starts quietly. The chorus dances round. Brokers Men arrive. The Ugliers eye them up, twitter to themselves and simper up to the men.

EMELLIA: If only I had a partner *(looks at men)*.

HORTENSIA: How about a touch of Tupsickory?

HERE: No thanks, I just had tea.

THERE: I think I'll chat this one up.

HERE: *(Aside to There)* Don't fancy yours much.

EMELLIA: Are you married?

HERE: No.

EMELLIA: Oh good *(she grabs Here and they waltz off)*.

Hortensia not to be out done, grabs There and dances.

EMELLIA: Mumsey will be so glad we've found real men.

HORTENSIA: Oh well. If I can't have the Prince, this is the next best thing (*pulling Mr. There close to her*).

The gauze parts and they all dance/waltz round. Footman announces the Princess Cinderella. the Prince is stunned.

PRINCE: How beautiful you are. May I have this dance?

CINDERELLA: (*After dance*) Thank you that was divine, I could dance with you for ever.

Chimes are heard striking 12 o' clock.

PRINCE: I have never seen any one as lovely as you! Can I get you some refreshment or a walk in the garden?

CINDERELLA: (*Suddenly realizing about chimes, turns and runs out*) I must go! I must go!

Cinderella leaves her shoe on step. The prince looks amazed. Everyone stands aghast.

Curtain

Scene 8 – Palace Anti-Room

PRINCE: What's happening. Where did she go ? I must find that Princess. I want to marry her if I can find her.

MAJOR DOMO: But how Sir?

PRINCE: Send out search parties, scour the countryside.

MAJOR DOMO: The only thing we found was her shoe, M'Lord.

PRINCE: Take the shoe to every girl in my Kingdom. The one that it fits, I will make my bride.

Major Domo bows and exits.

Curtain

Song in front of curtain with children from the audience

Scene 9 – Hardup's Kitchen (next morning)

The Hardup family seated round table. Cinderella is serving porridge. Buttons is busy.

BARONESS: Ah! Take it away, take it away.

EMELLIA: I want some.

HORTENSIA: More?

EMELLIA: Yes, more.

HORTENSIA: I don't know where you put it.

BARONESS: Don't be vulgar.

HORTENSIA: After all that supper last night.

EMELLIA: I didn't have much. Only ten sandwiches, nine mince pies, eleven sausage rolls, seven cream buns and gallons of champagne.

HORTENSIA: Disgusting!

BARONESS: That's enough.

CINDERELLA: Did you dance with the Prince?

EMELLIA: Course we did, but we preferred some one else.

HORTENSIA: He wanted to dance with us all evening, but we had so many other partners.

Cinderella smiles to herself.

BARONESS: Now girls, remember what I've told you. Check up on their finances first. We don't want you getting hold of someone poor, *(gives Baron a dig)* do we?

Go in to song – 'Old fashioned millionaire'.

Fanfare of trumpets. Major Domo enters carrying shoe on velvet cushion and bows.

MAJOR DOMO: Your servant Ladies. I am commanded by his Highness, the Prince Charming to try this slipper on all the young ladies of this household. The Prince has decreed that he will wed whosoever the slipper fits.

HORTENSIA: *(Falling off seat to be first)* Oh Mumsey I'm sure it will fit me.

EMELLIA: Only your big toe!

HORTENSIA: Pig.

They make a great play of trying on shoe.

EMELLIA: My turn now *(pushing Hortensia off stool)*.

Repeat of business

BARONESS: Never mind daughters, be brave, you've done your best.

MAJOR DOMO: I'm not finished yet. *(Indicating Cinderella)* The Prince commanded every lady.

BARONESS: What, the serving wench - Never!

Uglies laugh and slap each other on the back, thinking it funny. Fanfare as Prince enters, all bow / curtsy.

PRINCE: Has everyone tried on the slipper.

BARONESS, EMELLIA and HORTENSIA: *(Together)* Yes of course.

BUTTONS: No. Sir *(shepherds Cinderella forward)*.

Major Domo seats Cinderella, who tries on slipper, which fits.

PRINCE: *(Kneeling)* My love, I thought I'd never find you.

CINDERELLA: My Prince.

BARONESS: *(Cross)* My Goodness.

EMELLIA and HORTENSIA: *(Together)* My Guinness.

BARON: *(Pleased)* My daughter.

BUTTONS: *(Sad)* Oh dear.

Song 'Only Love'.

Curtain

Scene 10 – Palace Ballroom (Finale)

Dancers are dancing round, then break to form up. The characters come on in order. Finally Prince Charming and Cinderella come on in wedding outfits.

Sing last chorus.

Curtain