

OVERTURE

()

Scene 1

The Town of Stonybroke (A Morning in May)

Full Set

(Setting is country town with the residence of Stonybroke Hall prominent stage left.

Ensemble and kiddies chorus as citizens, tradesmen, urchins, school children etc in bright number) ()

(During which enters Buttons quietly left. He pegs out some washing on a short line up left. Number finishes, Buttons turns to face audience upstage.)

Buttons Eee! You do make a row!

All Kiddies Buttons, Buttons. *(They surround him and bring him downstage left centre as ensemble converge right centre)*

Buttons Put me down, you don't know where I've been.

Several Ens. Where have you been?

Buttons I'll tell you where I've been. *(Rapidly)* I've been in the kitchen cleaning the cooker, polishing the cutlery, scrubbing the floor, washing the walls down, vacuuming the carpet, polishing the banisters, making the beds and changing my mind - and now I'm going to have my breakfast - and I'll tell you something else.

All What?

Buttons I didn't order all this milk, *(picks up crate he sees at left)* Co-op's gone mad. *(Dumps crate)*

1st Girl Why are you working so hard?

Buttons 'Cos I'm the family page and the family's coming back from holiday today.

All The family?

Buttons *(coming centre)* Yes. Baron Hardup and his two step-daughters Josephine and Deidre.

2nd Girl He means the Ugly Sisters.

Buttons Please. Beauty runs in the Hardup family, It just galloped past those two, that's all.

1st Girl Didn't Cinderella go on holiday?

Buttons The Ugly Sisters wouldn't let her, even though she is the Baron's own daughter, but actually of course (*going coy*) she wanted to stay at home with me. She thinks I'm wonderful.

All Ooooooh!!!!

3rd Girl Buttons - are you in love with Cinderella?

Buttons She's alright. We're just good friends (*rolling his head round*)

All Ahh!!!

Buttons Well she needs a friend like me, Honestly, if you'd seen all the hard work she's done these last few days, getting ready for them coming back.

2nd Girl I thought you said you'd done all the work.

Buttons Well, I helped.

All What!

Buttons Supervised

All What!

Buttons Watched. Now, don't waste my time, I've work to do.

3rd Girl He means some more work to watch. (*Ensemble laugh and disperse. Exit right as Kiddies surround Buttons at both sides of him shouting "Buttons"*)

Buttons Hello, kids.

Kiddies Hello, Buttons. (*Rather refined*)

Buttons (*Imitates them*) You don't say it like that. "Hello Buttons" (*Posh*) You sound as if you come from Harrogate. You say "Hello Buttons" (*local accent*) (*To audience*) This lot know how to say "Hello Buttons" - don't you?

Audience Yes, (*after necessary persuasion*)

Buttons Look, every time I come on I'll say "Hello Kids" and I want you to shout "Hello Buttons". We'll have a practice, (*Work business with audience and kiddies joining in*) Now don't forget every time I come on "Hello kids" - "Hello Buttons". Well that's got things rolling, Now let's get things rocking, () (*cue for rock number - Buttons and Kiddies. Kiddies exit at end of number right,. Buttons into house left*)

(*Enter Snatchem and Grabbem up right*)

Grabbem Shh!