

Wilberforce Ladies and Gentlemen, a big welcome for their Majesties the King and Queen of Merry-Go-Lucky. (*Wilberforce starts applause as he turns up stage. Pause then King and Queen enter from back of audience – they are obviously late. Ad lib as they walk to front*)

King ‘Course I’m sure it’s the right place.

Queen I told you we’d be late. It’s all your fault. It was stupid thinking we could make it in half an hour.

King We’d have been on time if you hadn’t sent me back to change my socks.

Queen The world will be a better place to live in now you have changed your socks.

King We get off late. You could have missed watching Sky News for once.

Queen And another thing, where’s the red carpet?

King You’ll just have to walk on the blue one.

Queen (*Stopping at centre by M.D.*) Eh, you didn’t pay to come in, did you?

King No, I told that fellow at the door I was King.

Queen No wonder he threatened to crown you. And where’s Wilberforce? (*They are by the orchestra rail facing the stage with their backs to the audience*)

Wilberforce Your Majesties.

Queen Oh, Wilberforce, there you are.

King Eh, Wilberforce, where is everybody?

Wilberforce I will endeavour to assemble the populace.

King Yes, and go and fetch everybody here as well. (*Exit Wilberforce and Heralds*)

King It’s no good us trailing all this way if there’s nobody to welcome us. (*Queen has turned – seen audience – done a double take, nudges King*)

King What’s the matter?

Queen They’re all here look, we’ve been busy talking.

King (*King turns to audience*) Greetings my loyal and devoted objects.

Queen Subjects you fool.

King Greetings my loyal and devoted subjects, you fool. It gives me great pleasure to declare this bring and buy sale open – (*Sees Queen moving about giving royal wave – ‘My pleasure’*) Where are you going?

Queen I’m going on a royal walk-a-bout.

King So kind – My pleasure (*Imitating Queen. They mingle with audience*)

Queen I’m very pleased to see such a dense crowd here tonight.

King Yes, they’re the densest lot I’ve seen for a long time.

Queen Oh, tonight, I feel like Her Highness Camilla. Don’t you think I look rather groovy?

King With that nose, you look more like a raspberry smoothie.

Queen There’s no need to be rude. Next thing you’ll be telling everyone I’m an idiot.

King Is it supposed to be a secret? (*To audience*) Good evening sir, nice to see you. Have you parked your bicycle outside?

Queen Where are you from – Manchester – well it’s a good place to come from – you’ve brought some of your lousy weather with you.

King Anybody got any chocolates? (*offered and takes one*) It’s not a hard centre is it? ‘Cos I always put those back.