

Playstage  
Junior

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# THE NUT AND PEAR JOB



*A PANTOMIME WITH SONGS*

Written by  
Janet Hodge

**CAST OF CHARACTERS****In order of appearance:**

GARDENERS (*Max 6 speaking parts*)

4 ANIMALS (*2 rabbits, 2 squirrels*)

WILLIAM, Dame Dock's son

PERCY POTTER (*The Head Gardener, an old man*)

DAME DOCK, the owner of Dingle Dell

KING OF SUBTERRANEA

DEMONIA, his daughter

SERGEANT SAM

CONSTABLE KYLE

CONSTABLE KELLY

CHAMBERLAIN of Spain

PRINCESS ROSINA of Spain

LEADER OF THE SUBTERRANEANS

SUBTERRANEANS (*At least 6*)

NICK

NACK

2 PALACE GUARDS

*Approximately 31 speaking parts (could be more non-speaking parts– e.g. more Subterraneans, gardeners or animals. Everyone sings.)*

## MUSIC

*Backing tracks can be purchased and downloaded for a modest fee from various sources, as shown below. Or, you could source the original artiste's recording from amongst parents/grandparents and just have the children sing along to it, as many schools do. If you cannot source them from amongst the school community, then Amazon sell very cheap downloadable MP3 tracks for hundreds of thousands of songs. These can be purchased, downloaded on to a computer and then burnt on to a CD for performance. Below we give the song title and source of backing tracks. Where it says "Traditional" or "Disney", this means there is no backing track we know of, but it may be in sheet music form in your school or on a children's school music compilation CD.*

### SUGGESTED SONGS:

I had A Little Nut Tree	(Traditional)
Rose Garden (Lynn Anderson)	<a href="http://www.ameritz.co.uk">www.ameritz.co.uk</a>
Getting Know You (The King and I, Children's Chorus)	<a href="http://www.ameritz.co.uk">www.ameritz.co.uk</a>
I Can Sing A Rainbow (Children's songs)	<a href="http://www.ameritz.co.uk">www.ameritz.co.uk</a>
This Old Man (Nick Nack Paddywack)	(Traditional)
It's Impossible (Perry Como)	<a href="http://www.ameritz.co.uk">www.ameritz.co.uk</a>
Good Day Sunshine (The Beatles)	<a href="http://www.ameritz.co.uk">www.ameritz.co.uk</a>

## THE NUT AND PEAR JOB

### SCENE 1.

*The scene is the front of Dingle Dell Garden Nurseries in the Kingdom of Cameronia (SEE PRODUCTION NOTES). It is a morning in late summer and the gardens are a blaze of colour. The GARDENERS and ANIMALS are singing the opening song and as they finish WILLIAM enters.*

#### **SONG 1. I had a little nut tree. (Everyone)**

*I had a little nut tree, nothing would it bear*

*But a silver nutmeg and a golden pear*

*The King of Spain's daughter came to visit me*

*And all for the sake of my little nut tree.*

*Her dress was made of crimson, jet black was her hair*

*She asked me for my nut tree and my golden pear*

*I said "So fair a princess never did I see,*

*I'll give you all the fruit from my little nut tree."*

#### WILLIAM

Good morning everyone.

#### GARDENERS and ANIMALS

Good morning master William.

#### WILLIAM

I think I had better tell the audience exactly where they are. This is not (*insert name of local garden centre or park*), this is Dingle Dell Nursery Gardens in the Kingdom of Cameronia. A very special place it is – because this is where we grow a very special nut tree, that only blooms every other year, and then it produces a very strange fruit – a silver nutmeg and a golden pear. I bet you've never seen anything like that before! No. Neither have most people, which is why we get lots of visitors to see our special tree. Everyone works very hard in Dingle Dell – even the animals. Rabbits front and centre! Explain to the nice people what you do here.

*(Two RABBITS come forward and stand to attention.)*

RABBIT 1

I dig holes for the new plants to go into. (*Mimes digging with his paws*)

RABBIT 2

And I fill them in and stamp on them. (*Mimes digging backwards with his feet and then stamping on the ground*).

WILLIAM

And what do you *never* do?

RABBITS

We don't eat the plants!

WILLIAM

Good. Now, Squirrels, front and centre! Explain to the nice people what *you* do.

(*Two SQUIRRELS come forward and stand to attention*)

SQUIRREL 1

I run up the trees with a rope between my teeth and tie it to a big strong branch so that the gardeners can climb up more easily.

SQUIRREL 2

And I run up the fruit trees, pick the ripe fruit and throw it down to the gardener's baskets.

WILLIAM

Good. And what must you *never* do?

SQUIRRELS

Eat the fruits and nuts, sir!

GARDENER 1

Except the ones we give them.

WILLIAM

Quite right. Carry on.

(*PERCY enters. He is an old man with a beard*)

WILLIAM

Good morning Percy. (*To the audience*) Percy Potter is our Head Gardener.

PERCY

Good morning master William, how are you today?

WILLIAM

Wonderful, I think this is the best time of the year don't you?

PERCY

No I don't - too much work to do.

WILLIAM

Well, you'd better get on with it then.

PERCY

I'll get this lot working first before they all take root.

*(PERCY gathers the GARDENERS and the ANIMALS together and sends them off to work in the gardens)*

WILLIAM

*(To audience)* You might have noticed that Percy is a bit of a misery guts.

PERCY

Master William - about the compost heap.

WILLIAM

Compost heap?

PERCY

Yes, master William.

WILLIAM

You certainly know how to bring a man down to earth Percy.

PERCY

Well earth's what it's all about, isn't it young William?

WILLIAM

I suppose it is Percy, but I do think of other things too.

PERCY

Well the problem is that the heap is big enough now and we've got to start another.

WILLIAM

*(With mock excitement)* Go on, this is getting really exciting.

PERCY

Well, would you mind going down and showing the gardeners where you want them to build a new one.

WILLIAM

*(Sarcastically)* Do you think I can handle it Percy?

PERCY

Only with your rubber gloves on Master William.

WILLIAM

You're quick today Percy. Well let me put your mind at rest, I've already started a new compost heap this morning.

PERCY

That's taken a weight off my mind Master William.

WILLIAM

I didn't know you had one Percy.

PERCY

A weight?

WILLIAM

No, a mind.

PERCY

Oh well, I suppose I'd better get started. I think I'll go to the potting shed and force open a packet of seeds.

*(PERCY exits and DAME DOCK enters, in a flustered state)*

DAME

William, William, we've had a letter.. *!(seeing the audience)* Oh hello... hello.

*(to WILLIAM)* What time do we open the gates of Dingle Dell, William?

WILLIAM

Ten o'clock mother.

DAME

It's not ten o'clock yet is it?

WILLIAM

No mother.

DAME *(pointing to the audience)*

Then how did all these people get in?

WILLIAM

I don't know mother.

DAME

Um, well now they're here they might as well stay. They might buy lots of plants and things. I'll just have a few words with them. *(To the audience)* Good morning everyone *(she gets no response)* I might as well speak to myself! Try again. Good morning everyone!

AUDIENCE

Good morning!

DAME

That's better! Now let me introduce myself. I am Dame Dock of Dingle Dell and this is my son William.

WILLIAM

Hello everyone.

DAME

Sweet boy, sweet William. Now I hope you're all going to enjoy your visit to the nursery. There are lots of things to see, but please don't pick the flowers. You won't will you - will you? No, of course you won't. If you see anybody picking the flowers, you give me a call! You shout out "Dame Dock"! Can you remember that - "Dame Dock"! What have you got to call?

AUDIENCE

Dame Dock!

DAME

Who said Tame Duck? "Dame Dock" you silly pilchards - don't mess about. Let's try again shall we, all together now.

AUDIENCE

Dame Dock!

DAME

Mmm. One more try - one... just a mo. *(Takes iPod from pocket and puts in earphones)* I've done this before, I'm not silly... now really give it all you've got! One, two, three...

AUDIENCE

DAME DOCK!

DAME *(Taking out earphones)*

Wonderful, I didn't hear a thing. Now you won't forget will you, as soon as anyone picks a flower I want you to call me just like that.

WILLIAM

Mother, what did you want me for?

DAME (*indicating the audience*)

Weren't they good? Not too bright but they were good.

WILLIAM

Excellent mother.

DAME

All right, what is it you want to tell me?

WILLIAM

Mother, you wanted to tell *me* something.

DAME

So I did, silly me.

WILLIAM

Well, what was it mother?

DAME

Oh. Oh yes. I remember, we've had a letter.

WILLIAM

Who from, or from whom?!

DAME (*to the audience*)

Oh he's so posh! "From whom". Show off! No, you're right to be posh William because it's from the King of Spain.

WILLIAM

The King of Spain? What's he writing to *us* for?

DAME

Because he wants his daughter to visit our magic tree.

WILLIAM

The King of Spain's daughter is going to visit us?

DAME

(*Passionate*) Yes! Royalty at last!

WILLIAM

Wow, wow! When?

DAME

I didn't get that far, you read the letter. (*Passes it to WILLIAM*)

WILLIAM

(*Who reads*) Bla, bla, bla, Princess Rosina, daughter of the King of Spain will arrive today at twelve o'clock.

DAME

That's quick.

WILLIAM

Today.

DAME

Very quick.

WILLIAM

Will you listen to me mother. At 12o'clock TODAY we're going to receive a visit from the daughter of the King of Spain!

DAME

Oh, that is an honour isn't it, and she's coming at just the right time too.

WILLIAM

Yes, tonight is the night of the full moon and in the morning we will have a silver nutmeg and a golden pear.

DAME

We'd better get ready for her visit then. I think I'll wear the Dior outfit, or shall I wear the Versace?

WILLIAM

I thought all your clothes were from Primark.

DAME

Cheeky! By the way have you noticed a strange smell around here?

WILLIAM

Actually mother, I've been working on the compost heap. It's me.

DAME

Then you'd better have a spray of this. (*Sprays him with a spray bottle*). Toilet water from my own boudoir.

*(DAME Exits)*

WILLIAM

Phew! I think I'd rather have the compost heap!! I wonder what she's like, Princess Rosina. I wonder if she's as pretty as her name. It means "little Rose" you know. I must go and see if our rose garden is looking tidy.

*(Music starts. WILLIAM exits. GARDENERS and ANIMALS come on in a line to sing Song 2 and line dance.)*

**SONG 2. Rose Garden.**

*I beg your pardon,*

*I never promised you a rose garden.*

*Along with the sunshine,*

*There's gotta be a little rain sometimes.*

*When you take, you gotta give, so live and let live,*

*Or let go.*

*I beg your pardon,*

*I never promised you a rose garden.*

*I could promise you things like big diamond rings,*

*But you don't find roses growin' on stalks of clover.*

*So you better think it over.*

*Well, if sweet-talkin' you could make it come true,*

*I would give you the world right now on a silver platter,*

*But what would it matter?*

*So smile for a while and let's be jolly:*

*Love shouldn't be so melancholy.*

*Come along and share the good times while we can.*

*I beg your pardon,*

*I never promised you a rose garden.*

*Along with the sunshine,*

*There's gotta be a little rain sometimes.*

*(Instrumental break.)*

*I beg your pardon,*

*I never promised you a rose garden.*

*I could sing you a tune or promise you the moon,*

*But if that's what it takes to hold you,*

*I'd just as soon let you go, but there's one thing I want you to know.  
You better look before you leap, still waters run deep,  
And there won't always be someone there to pull you out,  
And you know what I'm talkin' about.  
So smile for a while and let's be jolly,  
Love shouldn't be so melancholy.  
Come along and share the good times while we can.*

*I beg your pardon,  
I never promised you a rose garden.  
Along with the sunshine,  
There's gotta be a little rain sometimes.*

*(Music fades. GARDENERS and ANIMALS bow and exit)*

*END OF SCENE ONE/*