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) www.ameritz.co.uk
Getting Know You (The King and I, Children’s Chorus) www.ameritz.co.uk
I Can Sing A Rainbow (Children’s songs) www.ameritz.co.uk
This Old Man (Nick Nack Paddywack) (Traditional)
It's Impossible (Perry Como) www.ameritz.co.uk
Good Day Sunshine (The Beatles) www.ameritz.co.uk
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/