SCRIPT SAMPLE OF SLEEPING BEAUTY (A PANTOMIME)

**Sleeping Beauty Panto**

*Chester the Jester enters in front of tabs, singing a silly song. He spots the audience and stops.*

Chester Oh. Hello there! What are you doing in the King’s castle? If you’ve come for the party, you’re a bit too early… oh well, not to worry. I’m sure I can find something to do with you until the party starts, after all I am an entertainer! Really, I am and I’m going to be performing for the king tonight. I’m really nervous. I’ve never performed in front of royalty before. Maybe you could help me… Would you like to hear some of my act? (*audience reaction – ad lib)* Are you sure? You don’t sound convinced. I’m sure you can be louder than that! Would you like to hear some of my act? *(audience react)* Brilliant! Ok. Get a load of this…

There once was a fellow called Chester,

Who lived on a farm down near Leicester,

He was longing to sing,

For a Queen and a King,

And dreamed of becoming a Jester!

He sold all the cows and his tractor,

In his pursuit of becoming an actor,

And moved north to Notts,

To increase his shots,

Of performing in next year’s X-factor!

Well, what do you think? (*audience reacts)* Ok, so it may need a little work, but it’s a true story. I am Chester. Chester the Jester! And one day I’m going to be famous. If I can impress the King and Queen of Nottingham then Simon Cowell should be a piece of cake! The only problem is impressing the King and Queen, and as I said, I’m really nervous. I know what might make me feel better. Maybe if I didn’t feel like I was on my own and I felt like I had some friends with me. I think we’re getting on really well, don’t you? *(audience react)* So, will you be my friends? (*audience react)* That’s great! You know, friends always say hello, so every time I come on I’ll shout hello to you and will you shout ‘Hello Chester’ back to me? (*audience reaction)*  Let’s have a practice! I’ll go off and come back again and we’ll try it.

*Exits stage, comes back on.*

Hello boys and girls! *(Audience shout back)* That was great, but I still think you can do much better and be much louder. I don’t think I heard many mums and dads. Let’s try it again and this time everyone join in! (*repeat idea, maybe even again if still not joining in enough)*  Great. Now I know we’re really good friends and I don’t feel so nervous anymore.

Dame Chester! Chester! Where are you?

Chester Oh. That sounds like my mum, Dolly. I’m sure she’d like to meet you too. Mum! I’m out here.

*Dame enters through curtains, she is dressed in a very flamboyant outfit.*

Dame I’m so glad I found you! I wanted to show you my dress for the party. What do you think?

Chester It’s certainly very loud.

Dame I wanted to stand out from the crowd. Do you think the King and Queen will notice me?

Chester I don’t see how they couldn’t.

Dame Don’t you like it then?

Chester Well…

Dame It’s inspired by *(insert dancer from strictly)’s* dress. I wanted to look Fab-u-lous darling.

Chester I’ll give it a seven.

Dame It’s worth more than that. *(turn to audience*) you like it don’t you boys and girls? *(they react – ad lib appropriate to response).*

Chester Why are you going to so much trouble anyway?

Dame It’s not every day that a royal princess is christened and I had to try extra hard to out-do those fairies. I want the job of Godmother after all and it usually goes to a fairy.

Chester Mum. You’re the King’s cook. I really don’t think he’ll make you her Godmother.

Dame He might. He loves my cooking and they always say a way to a man’s heart is through his stomach. After all, he loves licking the honey off my sticky buns, but then I haven’t met many men in the kingdom who don’t.

Chester I still don’t think you’ll get to be Godmother.

Dame You would say that because I know how much you always fancy the fairies.

Chester No I don’t.

Dame Oh yes you do.

Chester Oh no I don’t.

Dame Oh yes you do (*repeat a few times)*

Dame Yes well, that’s enough of that for now. I think it’s time we got over to the party. I don’t want to be late.

*Chester hangs back.*

Dame What’s the matter? Aren’t you coming?

Chester I’m still a bit nervous about my act tonight. What if the King and Queen don’t like it?

Dame All you have to do is wow them.

Chester You make it sound so easy.

Dame Well, I am naturally a dazzling personality.

Chester If you say so.

Dame Look, Chester, it’s easy. All you have to do is dazzle them and I know you can do that.

Chester Thanks Mum. I feel a lot better now and with the boys and girls on my side, this performance is going to be great.

Dame Good, then let’s get to the party.

Chester Right behind you mum. I’ll see you later boys and girls! Bye!

*He waves as they exit. Magical Music as the good fairy enters.*

Fairy Hello everyone. I am Fairy Stardust, the queen of all good fairies and I’m on my way to a very special christening. A princess has been born to a lovely king and queen and I am on my way to give the baby a gift, but first I have to find lost my friend the cat. She’s a very special magic cat because she can talk and I need her help. She has been a good friend to all fairies. Have you seen her anywhere?

*Cat enters behind. Classic she’s behind you sequence. Eventually fairy Stardust finds the cat.*

Fairy Oh there you are. Where have you been?

Cat I was in the king’s kitchen. Dolly gives me the meat scraps when I visit her. Did you want me for something?

Fairy Yes. I need your help. I think Carabosse, the wicked fairy, is up to no good again.

Cat Tell me something I didn’t know. She’s always doing something bad.

Fairy Which is why I need you to do something for me. You are the only one who can sneak in to her castle and I need you to go on a special mission.

Cat A mission?! Brilliant. Do you want me to shred all her tights with my claws, or leave fur all over her cloak or maybe cough up a hair ball all over her bed?

Fairy That’s disgusting.

Cat She’s not a very nice person you know.

Fairy I know, but I don’t think anyone deserves that. No, what I need you to do is spy on her. Find out her plans.

Cat I will be the best 007 in the world!

Fairy Good. Now off you go and if you do a good job I’ll bring you a fish.

Cat Say no more. I’m on the case!

Cat exits.

Fairy Now, boys and girls, maybe you could help me too. Carabosse is a very bad fairy and I need you to keep a watch out for her too. If you see her I need you to boo really loudly. Can you do that for me? You recognise her by her black clothes and evil laugh. *(audience reaction)* Thank you. That will let me know where she is and then I can make sure she doesn’t cause too much trouble. Now I’d better be off to the party. I have some good spells to cast and I don’t want to be late. Goodbye everyone. I’ll see you soon.

*She waves and exits. Pink Panther theme tune plays. The cat enters comically sneaking on to Carabosse’s evil lair. She enters laughing wickedly. Hopefully audience boo. Cat hides.*

Carabosse Did I hear booing? Strange, I haven’t even met you yet and you already boo me. Well so you should! I am Carabosse the wicked fairy and I have been very wicked today. So far I have soured all the milk in the local villages, taken every left shoe from every shoe shop and stolen… this!

*Magic mirror enters.*

Mirror You do know this is the wrong fairytale for me to be in, don’t you?

Carabosse Silence! You now work for me!

Mirror I had a horrible feeling you were going to say that.

Carabosse Magic Mirror! You can see into the future, yes?

Mirror Something’s, yes, but it doesn’t always work. I mainly deal with the present.

Carabosse Fine. We’ll start with something present and work our way up to the future. Tell me this… who is the…

Mirror Wait a minute. That’s not how it works. You have to say ‘mirror, mirror on the wall’ first, then ask the question, and it has to rhyme too.

Carabosse Can’t you just tell me without all of that?

Mirror Afraid not. It’s in my programming. It’s the only way the magic works.

Carabosse Fine. Although I’m sure I know the answer to this one, but ‘mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the fairest one of all?’

Mirror Jennifer Lawrence. At least that’s who Cosmo voted for last month but personally I think Emma Watson could be prettier.

Carabosse What about me?

Mirror Oh your way down the list, with Hollywood actresses like them around.

Carabosse Why you…!

Mirror I tell the truth. If you don’t like the answer, then don’t ask the question.

Carabosse How am I supposed to know if I’ll like the answer if I don’t ask the question?

Mirror I don’t think you are. Maybe it would be better if I just left…

*Mirror tries to exit. Carabosse raises her hand and magically pulls the mirror back.*

Carabosse Oh no you don’t. I’m not finished with you.

Mirror *(sarcastically)* Oh goody.

Carabosse Mirror I wish to know something else. Something about the future…

Mirror I knew you were going to say that. Maybe my fortune telling powers are better than I thought.

Carabosse Mirror, mirror on the wall. What does the future hold for me?’

Mirror I’m sorry, but could you rephrase that. It doesn’t rhyme and you may remember me saying it has to rhyme or the magic doesn’t work.

Carabosse *(sighs)* Fine, let’s see… Mirror, mirror on the tree, what does the future hold for me?

Mirror On the tree? I’m not on a tree.

Carabosse You’re not on a wall either, but that didn’t stop you earlier!

Mirror Ok. Ok. Mirror, mirror on the tree it is. The future holds…. I see you sitting here alone in your empty castle. Was there anything else?

Carabosse Is that it? No adoring fans or hoards of minions.

Mirror I’m afraid they’re all out working for Gru, so there aren’t any spare for you.

Carabosse Are you telling me I have nothing to look forward too?

Mirror Well, if you don’t mind me saying, being wicked all the time doesn’t make people like you very much.

Carabosse I don’t want to be liked. I want to be worshipped.

Mirror Well, that’s never going to happen whilst there’s a King.

Carabosse He can’t live forever. He eats Dolly’s cooking and from what I’ve seen that’s enough to kill a man.

Mirror But his daughter will take the throne after him and then when she has a child they will take over from her.

Carabosse What daughter?

Mirror Sorry?

Carabosse You said daughter.

Mirror Did I?

Carabosse The King and Queen have a daughter. Why have I not been informed of this?

Mirror Well, you’re not exactly the sort of person they want to invite to a christening, are you. All those evil deeds do put people off.

Carabosse What christening?

Mirror Sorry?

Carabosse The King and Queen are having a christening for their new daughter?

Mirror Where did you get that idea from?

Carabosse You said so.

Mirror Did I? I can’t remember. It must be all this travelling I’ve done today since you stole me. It makes me forgetful. Maybe I should go and hang up for a bit.

*Mirror tries to exit again. Carabosse pulls it back with magic again.*

Carabosse So, mirror. Tell me about this christening.

Mirror I think I’m all out of magic now. I might just stop talking. I really should stop talking.

Carabosse Mirror, mirror that I see. You shall reveal the truth to me!

Mirror *(fast as if the truth is bursting out*) Today is the christening of the new princess, Aurora. There’s a huge party at the palace to which everyone, well everyone except you, is invited and Fairy Stardust is going to give the child a magical gift. (*stops)* Oh dear.

Carabosse Fairy Stardust! That glittery goody goody! How dare they invite her and not me! Well if she can give the child a gift, then so can I! I have a plan which will not only exact my revenge for this outrage, but ensure that I will one day rule instead of her!

*Carabosse exits with an evil laugh.*

Mirror Oh dear. What have I done?

Cat I don’t think you had much choice.

Mirror Where did you come from?

Cat Fairy Stardust. I’ll go and warn her about Carabosse.

Mirror It won’t make a difference. I think you’ll still be too late. Carabosse is too powerful. I have a feeling in my framework.

Cat I’ll be as fast as I can.

Mirror Good luck!

*Cat runs off.*

Mirror I guess I’m on my own then... in a creepy evil castle… all alone…

*Lights blackout.*