SAMPLE OF SCRIPT FOR ONCE UPON A TIME

**Once Upon a Time**

**Scene 1 - The beginning**

**1. STORYTELLERS SONG**

Storyteller Of course we all know the fairy stories well. We were told the stories as children and were drawn in to a magical world where Happy Ever After reigned and our imaginations could run free.

I would like to tell you a story today. It is a story of adventure and magic, princesses and queens and of course a Prince Charming, because what story would be complete without him? This story begins, as they so often do, with a simple phrase, ‘Once Upon a Time…’

*The Lights change and the Music begins.*

**2. PRINCESSES DREAM SONG**

*There is a fanfare, during which they exit. Enter the Queen and Chamberlain, followed by Prince Edward.*

Queen Everything must be perfect!

Chamberlain Of course your majesty. I promise you I have arranged everything myself to your exact specifications.

Queen Excellent! I have a wonderful feeling about tonight. It has been so long since the last time we had a ball and I intend to enjoy myself thoroughly.

Chamberlain Indeed your majesty, I am exceedingly excited myself.

Queen We all are, aren’t we Edward? *(he’s off in a daydream)* Edward?

Edward Sorry, Mother? You were saying?

Queen About the ball.

Edward Oh, yes the ball.

Queen It should be a most thrilling occasion!

Edward Of course.

Queen *(sensing that Edward is less than enthusiastic)* Chamberlain, would you go and check on the flower arrangements. I don’t want to see anything out of place.

Chamberlain Of course your majesty.

Queen Edward. You don’t seem as excited as I thought you would be. Every Princess in the land is coming here tonight in the hopes of becoming your queen. I would have thought the idea of a room full of beautiful girls would have at least made you smile.

Edward I’m sorry mother. I suppose I’m just a bit nervous.

Queen That’s quite understandable, but you have nothing to worry about. This has been a tradition in our kingdom for centuries and so far every prince has found a bride. Your father chose me at a ball just like this one and your grandfather before him. You’ll get to dance with every single princess and fair maiden in the land…

Edward That’s the problem. If I dance with every single girl then each dance will be so short. We won’t really get time to talk to each other.

Queen *(laughing)* Talk to each other? Why on earth would you want to do that? Edward, my dear, married people very rarely *talk* to each other especially the King and Queen who are far too busy for such trivialities.

Edward But how do you know she’s the right one for you if you don’t speak to her. You might not have anything in common. How can you know if you really love someone unless you get to know them.

Queen Don’t you believe in love at first sight? Edward, when you see her, you’ll know, and I promise you there will be plenty to choose from.

*She exits. Edward is left alone thinking. Blackout.*

**Scene 2 -The Ball**

*Waltz music echoes everywhere. People are dancing, including Edward, but he doesn’t look too happy.*

*There is a Fanfare and the Music stops. The Chamberlain bangs a staff on the floor and presents the new arrivals.*

Chamberlain Presenting her royal highness, Snow White!

*Snow White enters and curtseys before Edward*.

Snow White You’re royal highness.

Edward A pleasure to meet you.

Snow White I was so happy to receive your invitation.

Edward Thank you. So, please, tell me about yourself.

Snow White I have lips as red as blood, hair as dark as coal and skin as white as snow. That’s why they call me Snow White.

Edward I mean, some of your favourite hobbies.

Snow White I do a lot of cleaning. I live with seven dwarves and they can be a bit messy, so I clean.

Edward Anything else.

Snow White I sing too.

*Another Fanfare*.

Chamberlain Presenting Cinderella!

*Cinderella enters. She curtseys before Edward. Snow White is shoved out of the way*.

Cinderella Your Royal Highness.

Edward A pleasure to meet you.

Cinderella I was so happy to receive your invitation.

Edward Thank you.

Cinderella Your so much taller than I imagined.

Edward Oh, thank you. So, Cinderella, tell me about yourself.

Cinderella I have the most beautiful glass slippers. Only someone truly dainty can wear glass shoes, don’t you think?

Edward Of course. So, what do you do with most of your time?

Cinderella I clean the house.

Edward Do you like cleaning?

Cinderella Who doesn’t.? Shall we dance?

Snow White Actually he was about to dance with me.

Cinderella I’ve only got until midnight, I’m sure you can wait.

Snow White I’m not sure you should be dancing at all. You’ll probably break those glass slippers of yours, after all they aren’t strong enough to take your weight.

Edward Ladies, please…

*Fanfare.*

Edward Thank goodness.

Chamberlain Presenting, Rapunzel!

*Rapunzel enters, dragging her hair along with her*.

Rapunzel Your Royal Highness.

Edward A pleasure to meet you.

Rapunzel I was so happy to receive your invitation.

Edward Thank you. Anyway, Rapunzel. I would love to find out more about you. What do you spend your time doing?

Rapunzel Brushing my hair.

Edward All day?

Rapunzel It takes a long time. It is very beautiful though, don’t you think.

Edward Do you have a favourite place you like to walk or go to…?

Rapunzel I don’t get out much. My mother likes me to stay in my tower.

Edward A tower. That must have a good view.

Rapunzel I don’t really look out of the window too much, I’m too busy combing my hair.

Edward Don’t you ever look out of the window?

Rapunzel Oh yes, when I clean it. I like to keep the tower clean and tidy.

Edward Of course you do.

*Fanfare*

Chamberlain Presenting, Rose Red!

*Rose Red enters. She curtseys before Edward.*

Rose Red Your Royal Highness.

Edward A pleasure to meet you.

Rose Red I was so happy to receive your invitation.

Edward Thank you.

Rose Red Your so handsome! Have you decided who you would like to marry yet? Because, before you do let me tell you that I dance beautifully and as you can see I’m very pretty.

Edward Do you do a lot of cleaning?

Rose Red Yes, Of course.

Edward What about other hobbies?

Rose Red Making myself look beautiful.

*Fanfare*

Chamberlain Presenting, Briar Rose!

*Briar Rose enters. She curtseys and yawns.*

Briar Rose Your Royal Highness.

Edward A pleasure to… *(she collapses asleep in his arms)* Um, Briar Rose. Well this is different. I guess your hobby is sleeping.

Cinderella You must have time to dance with me now.

Snow White No dance with me.

Rapunzel Dance with me.

Rose Red No me!

*The Princesses begin fighting. Briar Rose wakes up and joins in. Edward sneaks off and crashes into the Chamberlain just as he announces the next princess.*

Chamberlain Presenting, Odette!

*Odette enters*. *She curtseys before Edward.*

Odette Your Royal Highness.

Edward A pleasure to meet you, Odette. *(he picks a feather out of her hair)* You’ve got a…

Odette Oh dear. How embarrassing. I’m so sorry. I didn’t have time to brush my hair since I changed back.

Edward Changed back?

Odette From a swan. I turn into a swan during the day and back into myself at night. It can be a little bit of a problem.

Edward You turn into a swan?

Odette A very pretty swan with lovely white feathers.

Edward I’m guessing you don’t have many hobbies then?

Odette Not really. It’s a little difficult with wings instead of fingers to do anything.

Edward So you don’t do any cleaning?

Odette No. Is that a bad thing?

Edward No. I think you must be the first girl I’ve met tonight who doesn’t.

*Fanfare*

Chamberlain Presenting, Drucilla and Grimelda.

*The Stepsisters storm in and push aside all of the other girls.*

Drucilla Your Highness!

Grimelda Your Royal Princeliness!

Edward A pleasure to meet you both?

Drucilla You can send the others away. Your true love is right here, Princey.

Grimelda Yes, it’s me.

Drucilla I’m the Prince’s true love.

Grimelda No me.

Edward To be honest, ladies, I’ve not really thought about it yet, now if you’ll excuse me I was about to dance with someone else. Ladies?

*The princesses all rush to dance with him, but Cinderella gets there first. The other princesses have another argument about who is next while Drucilla and Grimelda look on somewhat annoyed.*

**3. STEPSISTERS SONG**

*After the Song the Queen takes centre stage.*

Queen Ladies. Now that you are all here the time has come for you all to show my son, Prince Edward, why you would make the best Queen. Remember ladies, smile. Chamberlain, begin the Music!

**4. PRINCESSES DANCE**

*The Dance is interrupted by a large flash of lightening and a crash of thunder. Princesses scream and run in all directions. The Wicked Queen is revealed centre stage, surrounded by goblins.*

WQ This really is a most extravagant party. Everyone here, who you expect to see. All invited of course. I’m wondering what happened to my invitation. I cannot believe you would have forgotten to invite me.

Queen Of course not.

WQ I am after all the fairest of them all. Do you think I am a fool! I was not sent an invitation because you fear me. Just like everyone else. Well, let me tell you something. A Wicked Queen needs love just like anyone else. Did you think I would not be good enough for your son?

Queen You would be a fine choice.

WQ Indeed. I am glad we agree on that, which is exactly why Prince Edward is coming with me.

*She snaps her fingers and the Goblins grab Edward and drag him next to her.*

Queen Please. Ask for anything and I will give it to you, but don’t take my son.

WQ Anything? Very well. There is a potion I wish to make, but the ingredients are hard to find. If you can bring them to me I shall release precious Prince Edward.

Queen What do I have to find?

WQ A Golden egg, Gingerbread sweeter than honey, a silver shell, a large bootlace, half a mushroom that can make you grow, A matchstick, two small pieces of cloth from a Hood, one red and one green, ice from the Snow Queens castle and a sprinkling of fairy dust. You have three days to bring these to me, or Edward is mine forever.

Queen But where can I find these things?

WQ That is your problem to solve. I have already given you a deal, do not ask me to do any more favours.

*The Wicked Queen is about to leave when she spots someone hiding at the back. She snaps her fingers and freezes the room.*

WQ Princess Jane. I didn’t see you.

*Jane walks forward. She is ugly, but not in a comical way like the ugly sisters.*

WQ How unexpected to see you here. I thought your father locked you away so no-one could see your face.

Jane He said I should come to the ball and meet the Prince.

WQ How amusing. The ugly princess at a ball. Have you been having a good time.

Jane I was hiding, actually. I didn’t want them to see me and laugh like people always do. I didn’t want to come here, but he insisted.

WQ That’s your father. Stubborn and foolish. If he wasn’t I would never have had to place the curse on you in the first place.

Jane Curse? What Curse?

WQ Has he never told you? Your father once thought he could outsmart me, but he failed. As punishment I placed a curse that any daughters he had would be so ugly to look at that no Prince would ever want to marry them. He didn’t believe me until you were born.

Jane You mean I’m like this because of something you did.

WQ I could reverse the curse if you like.

Jane Please. I just want to look like everyone else.

WQ Very well. You heard the list of ingredients. If you bring them to me I will not only free charming Prince Edward, but I will also free you from your curse, how does that sound?

Jane What’s the catch?

WQ No catch, but you too only have three days, so I’d get started if I were you.

*She snaps her fingers and there is another blackout and crash of thunder. When the lights come up princesses are picking themselves back up again. Edward is gone and Jane has left*.

Queen Edward! Oh dear. What ever shall we do? I can’t find all of those ingredients in three days.

Chamberlain What if we get the princesses to find them, your majesty.

Queen A brilliant idea, Chamberlain. Ladies, your attention please. You all heard what the Wicked Queen said. There are only three days to find those ingredients. Whoever can bring me all of those ingredients will marry my son.