

# The Pied Piper of Hamelin

A Pantomime by  
David & Muriel Ayre  
with a little help from Robert Browning.



Published by **SDS Pantomimes**  
7 Woodpark Avenue  
Knaresborough  
North Yorkshire  
HG5 9DJ

Telephone 01423 862247  
Email: davidcayre@ntlworld.com

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## Production Hints

The pantomime is designed to run continuously with virtually no breaks for scene changes. This is accomplished by having a very generalised set which could pass as the market square or the forest with the addition of a couple of portable items such as a set of stocks for the market place, or a couple of small bushes for the forest.

This can be a bit more elaborate if you have the space in the wings. However you do it, the scene changes are carried out in full view as if they were part of the action. For instance, Creep and Twitch carry the Mayor's desk on and off as required, usually in the background while the previous scene is just finishing. This is to avoid breaks in the action which allow the audience to lose the atmosphere of the plot. If there are several items to bring on or off, individual cast members should be nominated to do it.

## Costume

The main characters can have quite elaborate costumes and should be medieval in design and in keeping with the rank of the character. The Piper must be in the two colours of red and yellow with one sleeve of red and one of yellow, and his hose should mirror his sleeves.

King Rat should be as rat-like as you can make him, though the other rats and mice can be less elaborate, remembering that they will have to change into creatures of the forest as well as ordinary children (in medieval costume).

Cat should be as cat-like as possible.

The widow should be like a typical pantomime dame but shouldn't over-act too much as dames tend to do.

The pantomime horse should be fairly horse-like if possible as this gives the best comedy effect.

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SDS Pantomimes is a division of Comtech Software  
7 Woodpark Avenue  
Knaresborough  
North Yorkshire  
HG5 9DJ  
Tel: 01423 862247

# Music

## ACT 1

- |          |                                  |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| Track 1  | Curtain music - Three blind mice |
| Track 2  | Minstrel 1                       |
| Track 3  | Minstrel 1 - once through        |
| Track 4  | Three blind mice                 |
| Track 5  | Minstrel 2                       |
| Track 6  | Just an old fashioned girl       |
| Track 7  | I'd do anything for you          |
| Track 8  | Busy doing nothing               |
| Track 9  | Minstrel 2 (flute)               |
| Track 10 | Put on a happy face              |

## ACT 2

- |          |                                               |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Track 11 | Curtain music - Three blind mice              |
| Track 12 | Minstrel 4                                    |
| Track 13 | Minstrel 2 (flute)                            |
| Track 14 | Me and my Shadow                              |
| Track 15 | Come Lasses and Lads                          |
| Track 16 | We're a couple of Swells                      |
| Track 17 | Lullabye                                      |
| Track 18 | Simple Melody (can also be used as an encore) |
| Track 19 | Put on a Happy Face                           |

# The Pied Piper of Hamelin

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## Characters

|                                   |                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Minstrel                          | He/she tells the story                                                                                              |
| Widow Patchett                    | A typical pantomime Dame                                                                                            |
| Poor Tim                          | Widow Patchett's son.                                                                                               |
| Mayor Plumpton                    | A well fed selfcentred fellow (Can be played by a woman)                                                            |
| Alderman Twitch                   | A Toadying attendant of the Mayor (Can be played by a woman)                                                        |
| Alderman Creep                    | As above. These two are a comic pair of villains. nothing goes right for them                                       |
| May Blossom                       | The mayor's daughter                                                                                                |
| Julius Caesar                     | The King Rat (the baddy) (Can be played by a woman)                                                                 |
| Rodger Dodger                     | A smart Alec boy                                                                                                    |
| The Pied Piper                    | A strange prancing man with a tin whistle. He is dressed half in yellow and half in red. (Can be played by a woman) |
| Cat                               | Tim's cat                                                                                                           |
| Prison Guard                      | Non - speaking                                                                                                      |
| Citizen 1                         |                                                                                                                     |
| Citizen 2                         |                                                                                                                     |
| Citizen 3                         |                                                                                                                     |
| Rats                              | These are interchangeable as the rats disappear at the end                                                          |
| Creatures of the forest, Children | of the first act after which they can be used as children                                                           |
| Pantomime Horse                   | or creatures of the forest (ie squirrels, rabbits etc.).                                                            |

Can be one or two people making it as it only appears for a short time.

*The action takes place in the city of Hamelin. It is a time in the distant past known as 'Once upon a time'.*

**Music before the curtain rises - Three Blind Mice (Track 1)**

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## ACT 1

### Scene 1

*The village square. The stage is empty when the minstrel enters SL. As the minstrel sings the first verse, the townsfolk, including Widow Patchett, Tim, May and Rodger, enter in ones and twos and gather in groups.*

### Minstrel (singing)

**Music - Minstrel 1  
Track 2**

Hamelin Town's in Brunswick,  
By famous Hanover City;  
The river Weser, deep and wide,  
Washes its wall on the southern side;  
A pleasanter spot you never spied;  
But, when begins my ditty,  
Almost five hundred years ago,  
To see the townsfolk suffer so  
From Vermin, was a pity.

*At this point rats appear from every entrance.*

### All (shouted)

**Rats!**

### Minstrel (sung)

They fought the dogs and killed the cats,  
And bit the babies in the cradles,  
And ate the cheeses out of the vats,  
And licked the soup from the cooks' own ladles,

Split open the kegs of salted sprats,  
Made nests inside men's Sunday hats,  
And even spoiled the women's chats  
By drowning their speaking  
With shrieking and squeaking  
In fifty different sharps and flats.

All (singing)

Hamelin Town's in Brunswick ,  
By Famous Hanover City;  
The river Weser, deep and wide,  
Washes its walls on the southern side;  
A pleasanter spot you never spied;  
But, when begins my ditty,  
Almost five hundred years ago,  
To see the townsfolk suffer so  
From vermin, was a pity.

All (shouted)

**Rats!**

All (sung)

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And bit the babies in the cradles,  
And ate the cheeses out of the vats,  
And licked the soup from the cooks' own ladles,  
Split open the kegs of salted sprats,  
Made nests inside men's Sunday hats,  
And even spoilt the women's chats  
By drowning their speaking  
With shrieking and squeaking  
In fifty different sharps and flats.

*The citizens drive the rats to the front of the stage where they settle down to eat large pieces of cheese. (Foam rubber)*

Widow

It's no good. Something has to be done about these rats.

Roger

Why don't you sing to them? That would scare them off.

Widow

I don't know what you mean. I have a beautiful voice. That's right, isn't it Tim?

Tim

Well.....

Widow

There, I told you so. Everybody knows what a beautiful voice I have. Shall I sing to you to prove it?

All

No thank you.

Widow (to the audience)

You'd like to hear me sing, wouldn't you?  
*Roger shakes his head to persuade the audience to say 'No'.*

Audience

No!

Widow

Oh yes you would!

Audience

Oh no we wouldn't" (You can do this a few times to get them going).

Widow

Anyway! I'll sing to you later..... If you're not careful. But I digress. What are we going to do about the rats?

Tim We could call for the rat catcher.

Widow He's no good. We've tried him already. Anyway, you can't call him a rat catcher any more.

Rodger Why not?

Widow Because its not politically correct. You have to call him a rodent operative.

Rodger I've never heard such nonsense. Anyway how do you operate a rodent?

Widow He catches them, or at least he tries to. The last one bit him.

Rodger Where?

Widow In the tool shed.

Tim We could set traps for them.

Widow No good. Been there done that. They just set them off with a stick and eat the cheese.

Citizen 1 Why don't you go and see the Mayor?

Widow Why don't you mind your own business?

Tim He was only trying to help, mother. There's no need to shout at him.

Widow What? Ofcourse there is. He's a peasant isn't he? That's what they're for, shouting at.

Citizen 2 But you're a peasant too, aren't you?

Widow I hadn't thought of that. Anyway. Why should I go to see the Mayor?

Citizen 3 Because you're the one making all the fuss.

Widow Perhaps we should send a delegation. There's safety in numbers, you know.

Rodger What a good idea. We'll march on the Town Hall and demand action.

Widow Oh I do like a forceful man.

Rodger Get off.

**Song ..... Minstrel 1, Track 3**

All (sung) Rid this town of rats, now, rid this town of rats!  
 They eat our food, our clothes they tear,  
 All these vermin we can't bear.  
 We want some action straight away!  
 So what have you to say, now?  
 Here's a petition signed by all,  
 So show yourself and open this door  
 Or we will get quite nasty!

All (shouted) **Rats!**



*They march around the stage (and perhaps the hall too) while the stage is being reset as the Mayors Office. The Aldermen carry on a small desk and chair which they set up and then they stand behind the chair.*

All(sung)                    They fought the dogs and killed the cats,  
And bit the babies in the cradles,  
And ate the cheeses out of the vats,  
And licked the soup from the cooks' own ladles,  
Split open the kegs of salted sprats,  
Made nests inside men's Sunday hats,  
And even spoiled the women's chats  
By drowning their speaking  
With shrieking and squeaking  
In fifty different sharps and flats.

*At the end of the song they march off USL. The Mayor enters and sits at the desk.*

## SCENE 2

### The Mayor's Office.

Mayor                    Well Twitch, what is all this about a deputation?

Twitch                    There's a deputation to see you.

Creep (to Twitch)        Sir!

Twitch                    Sir.

Mayor                    I know there's a deputation. But what do they want?

Twitch                    Haven't the faintest idea.

Creep                    Excuse me your worship, perhaps I can be of assistance?

Twitch (mimicking him)    Excuse me your worship. Good grief. How can you be of assistance?

Creep                    I know what they want. That's how I can be of assistance. You don't know, so you can't be of assistance. You don't know anything 'cos you're thick.

Twitch                    Oh no I'm not thick. I'm just not a creep like you are.

Mayor                    Shut up both of you. ***They go quiet and stand to attention.*** Perhaps one of you would like to enlighten me.

Twitch                    I haven't got any matches.

Creep                    Of course, I would be only too pleased to enlighten you. They have a petition to put to you.

Mayor                    Concerning what, may I ask?

Creep                    Rats!

Mayor                    Well there's no need to take that attitude with me. It was a perfectly civil question.

Creep No. That's what their petition is about. Rats.

Mayor Well perhaps you should show them in, Creep.

Creep Yes your worship. Immediately your worship. Twitch! Show them in.

Twitch Who?

Creep The deputation that's waiting outside.

Twitch Oh, right. *He exits SL and returns almost immediately, alone.*

Creep Well where are they?

Twitch I can't see a deputation. There's just a lot of people out there.

Creep Oh I give up. *He moves to the SL exit.* The Mayor will see you now. *The Widow, Tim, Rodger and a few other villagers enter.* You will have to make it snappy as the Mayor is very busy this morning.

Twitch Yes. He's due on the golf course in ten minutes.

Creep Shut up Twitch.

Mayor Well what can I do for you good people?

Widow Well it's like this, your worship. We want you to get rid of the rats.

Mayor The rats?

Widow Yes your worship.

Mayor Me?

Widow Yes your worship.

Mayor Do I look like a rat catcher. Rodent operative! Whatever.

Widow No your worship.

Mayor Right! And you know why that is? It's because I'm not a rat.. a Rodent whatsit. I am the Lord Mayor and rat....rodent operating is not in my terms of contract. So if that is all I will bid you all good day.

Rodger Just one jolly little minute my man.

Mayor What?

Creep You can't talk to the Lord Mayor like that.

Rodger Why not?

Mayor Because I'll have you all arrested and thrown into jail, that's why.

Widow I see you are a master of subtle argument, your worship. However, I feel that we must insist on immediate action. The peasants are getting ugly.

Mayor Getting? They are ugly.

Citizen 1 Ugly are we? I'll show you ugly.

Citizen 2 Throw him in the river.

Widow And if you do not rid this town of rats forthwith, you will be very sorry.

Citizen 3 Yes. Lets make him sorry!

All Get rid of the rats. Get rid of the rats. Get rid of the rats.

Mayor All right! I'll see what I can do. Leave it with me. Now get out and let me think.  
**They all leave, grumbling.**

Mayor Right you two. What are we going to do?

Creep We've tried everything possible and nothing seems to work.

Twitch Well perhaps .....

Mayor & Creep Shutup Twitch.

Mayor There must be something we can do.

Creep It's just a case of thinking of it.

Twitch It would seem to me....

Mayor & Creep Shutup Twitch.

Mayor I just don't know what we can do. **Twitch puts up his hand and tries to catch the eye of the Mayor.** Oh all right, but don't be long.

Twitch No I don't want to go to the .... you know where.

Creep Well you look as if you do.

Twitch No. Well..

Mayor Spit it out man. What's the matter with you?

Twitch I have a brilliant idea.

Mayor & Creep Oh no.

Twitch Yes I have. It's brilliant.

Mayor Well out with it then.

Twitch What?

Mayor This brilliant idea that you've had.

Twitch Oh you know about it do you. Brilliant isn't it?.

Mayor Give me strength.

Creep Tell his worship your idea.

Twitch Oh. Right.. What idea?

Mayor The brilliant idea that you've just had.

Twitch Oh, that brilliant idea. Right, well why not...you're going to like this.

Creep Get on with it.

Twitch Right. Why not put up posters everywhere?

Mayor Saying what? 'Go home rats'.

Twitch No that wouldn't be any use.

Mayor Oh. And why not?

Twitch (grinning) You're having me on aren't you.

Mayor And why do you think that, may I ask?

Twitch Rats can't read. ***He falls about laughing.*** That's a real good joke Mr. Mayor.

Mayor So what do we put on the posters then?

Twitch What posters? .. Oh well why not say that if anyone can get rid of the rats they can have a big reward?

Mayor You stupid idiot, what a completely .... marvelous idea. Except for one small point. Don't feel that I'm criticizing in any way, but where is the reward to come from? Surely you don't expect me to pay it, do you.

Creep Perhaps we could say that there's a reward and if someone gets rid of the rats, we say it was all a joke really.

Mayor Excellent Creep. You have triumphed again. What would I do without you.

Twitch But it was my idea, not his.

Mayor Twitch I am surprised at you. How could you be so selfish as to try and steal Creep's marvelous idea? So for that you can put up all the posters and I'll send Creep along to make sure you do it properly.  
***The Mayor exits SR. and Twitch and Creep remove the Mayor's desk and chair as they leave SR.***  
***King Rat entersSL***

King Rat Greetings, and may I introduce myself.  
My name is Julius Caesar and I am the King Rat.  
I've listened to the rumours, Oh the Mayor's in such a flap. The rats and I have, as you know, overrun the town  
And now they hope to banish us, according to that clown.  
So they're going to put up posters and offer a reward,  
But to rid the town of all of us, they'll find is very hard.  
Why all the fuss, what harm do we do?  
Only steal food and make nests inside shoes.

We like Hamelin Town and here we will stay,  
They'll never find anyone who can drive us away.

### SCENE 3

#### The Market Place

*Twitch and Creep enter SR with a bucket, apasting brush and some posters. The bucket is half full of polystyrene beans and one poster has been prepared with double sided sticky tape on the lower right corner and has been partially torn across the middle. The board has double sided sticky tape on it so that a poster can be stuck to it.*

*Creep looks for somewhere to put the posters and finds a bill board USC.*

Creep This'll be a good place to put one. Bring the paste over here, Twitch.  
*He puts the posters on the ground.*

Twitch What?

Creep We'll put a poster up here. You paste the board and I'll put a poster on it.

Twitch What board?

Creep This one here. *He puts his hand on the board.* Here! Put the paste here. *Twitch applies paste to Creep's hand.* No you idiot, not on my hand, on the board. *Twitch pastes the board as if he were an artist painting a masterpiece.* You've missed a bit at the bottom.

Twitch What?

Creep The bottom the bottom. Put plenty of paste on the bottom. *He bends over to sort out a poster. Twitch looks at his bottom then looks at the brush then shrugs his shoulders and slaps paste onto Creep's bottom. Creep leaps up and hits Twitch with the rolled-up posters.*

Creep What do you think you're doing?

Twitch Well you said paste your bottom. I was only doing what you said. It's not fair, you always shout at me and I was only doing what you said.

Creep I said paste the bottom of the board, there. *He jabs it with his finger and Twitch slaps paste on his hand again.* And there. *Twitch slaps on more paste but Creep dodges.* And here. And here. *He points to different parts of the board and Twitch tries to paste his hand but Creep is too fast for him.*

Twitch Is there anywhere else I've missed? *Creep scratches his nose and Twitch pastes it.*

Creep Right, that does it. I've had enough of you. Give me that paste. *He grabs the paste bucket from Twitch and chases him round the stage with it and then Twitch goes down and stands in front of the audience daring Creep to throw the paste.*

*To the audience.* Shall I?

*He taunts them for a bit then throws the contents of the bucket over them. They run back onto the stage and Creep picks up a poster and sticks it on the board.*

That will do here, I think. We'll have to find somewhere else for the rest.

*He bends down to pick up the other scattered posters but Twitch is standing on the corner of one of them and it tears leaving a small piece of poster stuck to Twitch's foot.*

Idiot. Now look what you've done.

Twitch It wasn't me. You ripped it. Wait 'till I tell the Mayor. he'll be furious with you.

Creep You wouldn't tell, would you.

Twitch I might. What's it worth?

Creep I'll let you do the next poster all by yourself.

Twitch Ok. But what do we do with this one?

Creep We'll have to mend it. Give me the piece on your foot.

*Twitch tries to reach it but every time he gets his hand near he moves his foot back out of reach. He continues like this moving backwards round the stage. Wait a minute. Let me help. He bends down and takes the paper off Twitch's foot and it sticks to his hand. He tries to put it down but it remains stuck to him. He transfers it from one hand to the other, he holds it between his knees where it remains until he picks it off only to get it stuck to his hand again.*

Twitch Let me help. *He takes the paper from Creep.*

Creep Thank you. Now can we get on? *He picks up the rest of the posters and leaves.*

*Twitch finds he has the piece of paper stuck to him and tries to get rid of it. He puts it in his mouth where it sticks, he transfers it from one hand to the other and eventually he puts it on the floor and stands on it and pulls his hand free. He looks pleased with himself as he walks off with the piece of paper stuck to his foot.*

*As he leaves the mice creep in and look at the poster and giggle.*

#### **DANCE - Three Blind Mice - Track 4**

*The rats scuttle to the centre of the stage where they do a dance.*

*At the end of the dance they go back to their positions at the front of the stage and the Pied Piper enters. He sees the poster and walks over to it, reads it, smiles to himself and exits on the opposite side. Shortly afterwards, Tim and May Blossom enter and go to the poster.*

#### **SCENE 4**

**(The same)**

Tim If I could rid the town of rats then your father would take me seriously.

May But how would you do that?

Tim I don't know, but I'm going to try, then I'll get the reward and we can be together for always.

May It's all dreams with you Tim. You'll never make anything of yourself..

*Rodger enters and goes over to join them. He puts an arm around May and pulls her to him.*

Rodger Come on May, lets go and have some fun. Leave this old misery, he's not for you.

Tim You'll have to think again when I'm rich and famous.

Rodger You? How will you ever be rich and famous?

May Leave him alone Rodger.

Tim It's all right May, you don't have to stand up for me, thank you, I am quite capable of defending myself.

Rodger Well, are you coming with me May? **He walks off SR. May looks at Tim and shrugs her shoulders and then runs after him.**

Tim That's right, you go too. See if I care. **Cat comes on SL and sits behind Tim.** Oh! It's you is it? Where did you come from? Anyway, I'm glad you're here. No-one else wants to be with me. But I'll show them. I'm going to get rid of the rats, then I'll be rich and famous and May Blossom Will want me then. **He looks at Cat and shakes his head**

But you don't understand a word I'm saying do you? Right! Now for the rats.

**Rats start creeping towards him. Tim draws a short sword from his belt and threatens the rats who fall about laughing.**

There's nothing to laugh about. I'm going to get rid of you once and for all.

**A very small rat comes towards him and puts up its fists in a threatening way. Tim grabs it and shakes it.**

Right you. This is it.

**While this is happening, King Rat stalks up behind Tim and taps him on the shoulder.**

Tim What? Aaaaagh!! **KingRat grabs Tim and the small rat escapes. There is a rough and tumble and King Rat ends up sitting astride Tim who is flat on his back on the floor.**

King Rat Now then Tim, how brave you are,  
But in cunning and strength I am mightier by far. So feeble mortal be warned, take care,  
And of my anger be you well aware.

**At this, Cat leaps forward and pulls the King Rat to the ground There is a tussle and,finally the rats all run off leaving Cat lying on the ground. Tim helps the wounded Cat to its feet.**

Tim Come on brave Cat. I'll take you home and get you mended.

**Theyleave SR.**

## SCENE 5

### The Mayor's Office

*Twitch and Creep bring on the Mayors desk and chair USR as if they were tidying up and while this is happening the Minstrel enters DSL and sings. The Pied Piper enters during this song and stands waiting.*

Minstrel (sings)  
Minstrel 2  
Track 5

And in did come the strangest figure!  
His queer long coat from heel to head  
Was half of yellow and half of red,  
And he himself was tall and thin,  
With sharp blue eyes, each like a pin,  
And light loose hair, yetswarthy skin,  
No tuft on cheek nor beard on chin,  
But lips where smiles went out and in;  
There was no guessing his kith and kin:  
And nobody could enough admire  
The tall man and his quaint attire.

*As the song draws to a close the Mayor enters and sits down.*

Mayor

Yes! And what do you want?

Twitch

He's dressed just like my old Grandad.

Creep

We've got a right one here.

*The Pied Piper walks forward to stand in front of the Mayor's desk.*

Piper

Please, your honours, I'm able  
By means of a secret charm, to draw  
All creatures living beneath the sun,  
That creep or swim or fly or run,  
After me so as you never saw!  
And I chiefly use my charm  
On creatures that do people harm,  
The mole and toad and newt and viper;  
And people call me the Pied Piper.

Mayor

Do you have any credentials, letters of introduction etc.?

Piper

Not as such, however, recently in Tartary I freed the Cham from his huge swarm of gnats.

Mayor

Really? But I think gnats are rather unimpressive. Anything else?

Piper

In Asia I eased the Nizam of a monstrous brood of vampire bats.

Mayor

Better, but what about rats, eh? What about rats?

Piper

If I can rid your town of rats will you give me a thousand guilders?

Mayor

One thousand? I will give you fifty thousand ...if you can do it, that is. And, what's more, they must be gone for good, every last one of them.

Piper

Done! *Smiling to himself he strides off SL.*



Mayor                    You certainly have been! Right, Creep, and you Twitch, follow that piper and see what he gets up to.

Creep                    Right you are sir. Immediately. Twitch!

Twitch                    Yes?

Creep                    Follow me. *He turns and strides off followed very closely by Twitch keeping in step with him.*

**SCENE 6                    Inside Widow Patchett's House**

*The Widow enters and carries on a table and places it USC. She then sits on the edge of the table and sings. The rats, which are on stage can join in the chorus.*

**SONG - Just an Old Fashioned Girl - Track 6**

Widow                    I wish that were true!  
*Tim arrives with Cat.*

Widow                    What's going on here? What have you done to that cat?

Tim                        Nothing!

Widow                    Well I'd hate to see what it looked like if you did do something.

Tim                        I didn't do anything to Cat. It was King Rat. He tried to get me but Cat leapt in and saved me, but got injured in the process.

Widow                    What a Brave Cat. Isn't he a brave Cat? Now help me onto the table with him.  
*She bends down to try and lift Cat and Tim gets hold of her leg and tries to lift her.*

                                  Hold on a minute. Not me, the Cat. Help me lift the Cat you stupid boy.  
*They turn back to the Cat who has now climbed onto the table by himself*  
What a clever Cat. Isn't he a clever Cat.

Tim                        And a brave one.

Widow                    Oh yes. He's certainly brave. Now Pussy Cat. Tell me where it hurts.  
*Cat indicates various places where it hurts.*  
Does it hurt here? *She prods his arm and the cat yowls. She turns to Tim.*  
Oh dear. I don't like the look of this at all. I think we'll have to operate.  
*The cat sits bolt upright.*  
Go and fetch me the carving knife.  
*Cat climbs off the table and starts to creep away SR. The widow turns and sees this.*  
Oh no you don't. This won't hurt at all.  
*She gets Cat back on the table. Tim comes back with a box containing a large mallet, a saw, a string of sausages etc. and places it behind the table.*

Widow                    Screens please. *Tim goes off and fetches a screen covered in thin white material and places it in front of the table. (It may be necessary for the Widow to help him). There is a sign hung on the front saying 'Vets in Practice). The lights dim in front of the screen and a lamp comes on behind the screen casting a shadow on the screen from behind. The cat is now*

*under the table but a piece of dark cloth stuck to the screen gives the impression of the cat's shadow. Anaesthetic! Tim passes the mallet which the widow uses on the cat. An operation is now enacted using a large knife, tongs, a saw, and all sorts of objects emerge from the box but appear to come from inside the unfortunate cat. Then there is the sewing up, done with a very large needle and string. Every time the widow pulls tight on the string, one of the cat's legs goes up. This can be done with a cardboard cutout. Finally, the lights go up and the shadow picture disappears. Tim removes the screen and the cat, now covered in bandages hobbles off. During the remaining dialogue they remove the table to the wings SR.*

Tim What have you done to him?

Widow He's as good as new now. In future, stay away from those rats.

Tim How can I do that when I'm going to get rid of them?

Widow You? How are you going to get rid of those ferocious rodents?

Tim I have a cunning plan.

Widow I've heard that before. No, I think you should leave it to the professionals.

Tim But there are no professionals. Everyone has tried and now it's my turn.

*The widow exits SR.*

Tim But I don't know what to do, but I have to do something or May Blossom will never take any notice of me.

***King Rat sneaks in SR and listens.***

I know what I'll do, I'll build a trap to catch the King Rat, then the others will leave and we'll be free of them for good.

***Tim exits SR.***

King Rat So that's his plan, a trap he'll set,  
Well, a lesson he'll have to learn.  
For with King Rat, his match he's met,  
Very soon I'll make him squirm.  
To trifle with me just doesn't pay,  
He'll find out to his cost,  
And for his efforts this fine day,  
His credence will be lost.

## Scene 7 The Market Place

***Tim returns with a large cage with a huge lump of cheese hanging down inside. He sets it down USC. He sits beside it and sings.***

**SONG I'd do Anything for You, Dear. (Verse and last chorus only, repeated twice). - Track 7**

***He creeps away to hide in the wings SR. After a little while rats start to move to the trap and sniff around it. They nudge each other and point at the cheese, One tries to reach inside but cannot reach the cheese. King Rat enters and marches up to the cage pushing aside the rats.***

King Rat Stand aside rats. This is a job for your King.  
***He strides up to the cage and rubs his chin.***

Tricky, but not too tricky for King Rat.

***He walks round the cage in one direction and then round again in the opposite direction. Then he stands in front of the open door and leans in. Tim creeps up behind King Rat and the other rats creep up behind Tim. At the last moment King Rat ducks past Tim carrying the cheese. The other rats push Tim into the trap and the door comes down to trap him.***

Tim Let me out!

King Rat Sorry. No can do. You see I have this enormous piece of cheese to eat so I'll be rather busy for quite a while. If this doesn't fill me up I'll come back and start on you. 'Bye for now..

***King Rat strolls off SL.***

Tim Hey! Come back and let me out

***He is left alone on stage so he settles down in the bottom of the cage and sulks. Soon May and Rodger enter SR and walk over to the cage and peer in.***

Rodger What are you doing in there, little Timmy.

Tim Mind your own business.

May Leave him alone, Rodger. You always make fun of him.

Rodger Well that's what he's here for. Come on lets go.  
***He walks off SL.***

Tim No! Wait a minute. Don't go.

May I thought you wanted us to go.

Tim No. Not you. I don't want you to go.

May Well that's too bad 'cos I'm going. 'Bye.  
***She hurries after Rodger.***  
You can come too if you want to.  
***She goes***

Tim But I can't get out. (*Shouting*) Come back and let me out.  
It's no use, they've gone. What am I going to do now? That rat'll be back soon to eat me and I can't get away.

***The Mayor enters followed by Creep and Twitch.***

Twitch I'm sure he'll think of some way of getting rid of the rats, sir.

Mayor Rubbish! He's just a waste of time just like the rest of them I said so all along.

Creep Of course you did, Sir, and you were right as usual.

Twitch But he hasn't had much time yet.

Mayor Shut up Twitch.

Creep Shut up Twitch.

Twitch But he may still do something. He's probably hatching a fiendishly cunning plot at this very moment.

Mayor Shut up Twitch

Creep Shut up Twitch.

Twitch I'm sure if you were to give him just a little longer he would... Shut up Twitch.

Mayor Quite right.... Shut up Twitch.

Tim Excuse me.

Creep Shut up Twitch.

Twitch Didn't say a word.

Mayor Oh do be quiet and let me think.

**SONG - Busy doing nothing - Track 8**

*The Mayor sings the first verse, Creep the second, and Twitch the third and they all sing the chorus after each verse.*

*As they finish, Twitch skips around the stage while the others glare at him. When he notices them glaring, he jumps back into line and they march off SR*

Tim Hey come back and let me out.

*The Pied Piper enters SL*

Piper Hello. What are you doing in there?

Tim The King Rat tricked me and caught me in my own trap.

Piper You'll have to be smarter than that to get rid of the rats.

Tim Oh yes? And are you smart enough?

Piper Of course. That's why I'm here. It's my job, you see.

Tim What? Getting rid of rats?

Piper No not just that. I can get rid of any type of pest.

Tim Could you get rid of Rodger Dodger? He's a real pest.

Piper I could, but I won't. He's not really a pest. You will just have to learn to deal with people like that.

Tim Could you show me how?

Piper No. That's something you must learn for yourself. Now, if you'll excuse me, I must be about my business.

Tim You couldn't let me out first could you?

Piper Sorry, but you'll be safer in there.  
*The Piper starts playing his pipe and rats run over to listen.*  
**Track 9 (flute)**

**DANCE (To the tune of the Minstel's 2nd song)**  
**The Piper starts to march around the stage followed by the rats and goes down the steps and around the audience before finally exiting SL.**  
**All is quiet for a few moments until people start appearing cautiously looking in the direction of the disappearing rats.**  
**Someone lets Tim out of the trap.**  
**As the rats go off they make a very quick change into children and come back on stage from either side in ones and twos and join in the action. They can continue entering even during the song.**

Mayor                    Look at them go. I knew he could do it. I said so all along, didn't I Creep?

Creep                    Yes Mr Mayor. You certainly did.

Twitch                    Shut up Twitch.

Widow                    Where is he taking them?

Rodger                    He seems to be heading for the river.

May                        Yes. Look at that. They're all plunging into the river.

Widow                    What a sight. But some of them can swim quite well.

Rodger                    Not well enough, I think. The river is too much for them. They are all going to drown.

May                        No, not all. One has reached the other side. I can see him pulling himself out of the water.

Widow                    It's that nasty old King Rat.

Mayor                    Well, I don't think he will bother us any more. But now it's time to celebrate.

Twitch                    Are you going to give a banquet for all the town's folk?

Mayor                    Shut up Twitch.

**SONG and DANCE (ad lib)**  
**Put on a Happy Face - Track 10**  
**Sung by all.**

**End of Act 1**