



Beauty & the Beast

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Beauty & the Beast

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CAST:

M	Prince Henry/Beast		Villager2	Angelica	
F	Scuttle	Belle	Villager5		Shammy
M	Butler	Mr.Duchant	Villager4		
F	Shuffle	Sorceress	Villager1	Nicole	Posty
M	Sarah the Cook	Fleshcreep	Villager3		

Scene 1 Inside the Palace of the Forest Saváge near Merano, France.

[*Slapstick with servants running hither & thither. They are scared half to death. SCUTTLE & SHUFFLE enter, bump into each other and fall down. SARAH the Cook enters with the BUTLER.*]

SCUTTLE: Goodness me! The Prince is in such a bad mood, today ?

SARAH: Prince Henry's always in a bad mood.

SCUTTLE: But today he's in a particularly bad mood. I've never seen him so angry.

SHUFFLE: Well! That's all Sarah's fault.

SARAH: Me? What have I done?

BUTLER: I heard you'd burnt the roast.

SARAH: Well... there is that. But I don't see how it's all my fault. The Prince may have given me a roasting... for burning the roast, but that was at least ...well five minutes ago. I'm sure he should've calmed down by now.

BUTLER: Prince Henry ? Calm down ?

OTHERS: Calm down ? Calm down ?

BUTLER: That's enough! Do you want Prince Henry to hear you ?

[**SONG: *It's the Hard-Knock Life/Annie.***]
It's a hard knock life for us ! It's a hard knock life for us!
'Stead of treated, we get tricked, 'Stead of kisses, we get kicked.
It's a hard knock life.
Got no life to speak of, so. It's a hard knock row we hoe.
Cotton blankets 'stead of wool. Empty bellies 'stead of full.
It's a hard knock life.
Don't it feel that the wind is always howlin' ?
Don't it seem like there's never any light ?
Once a day don't you want to throw the towel in.
It's easier than puttin' up a fight.
It's a hard knock life for us ! It's a hard knock life for us!
'Stead of treated we get tricked, 'Stead of kisses we get kicked.
It's a hard knock, It's a hard knock, It's a hard knock life.

PRINCE: [*off. shouting.*] What is that unbearable racket. Smith! Smith! Where are you, man? Dash it all. There's never a servant around when you need one. Smith !Smith!

BUTLER: It's the Prince. Quick! Get in line! [*PRINCE enters. The servants form a line. Military style. BUTLER, SHUFFLE, SCUTTLE, SARAH*] Sound off. Smith the Butler, sir.

SHUFFLE: Shuffle the Upstairs Maid, sir.

SCUTTLE: Scuttle the Downstairs Maid, sir.

SARAH: Sarah the Cook, sir.

[*They all bow very low & the PRINCE pushes each of them so they fall on their bottoms.*]

PRINCE: Why do none of you bow low enough. Is this any way to show me respect ? You should grovel on your hands and knees for the privilege of working here. [*unnoticed by the Prince, they are*] A more ungrateful bunch of layabouts would be hard to find. And why, may I ask, are you all standing... [*looks at them sitting on the floor. They all hurriedly get up*].... standing about in the hallway ? Have you no work to be getting on with ? Of course you have. Call yourselves servants ? My Father would never have put up with it. He'd have had you all flogged... daily! If it wasn't for my good nature, my generosity, my

SARAH: [*under her breath*] Bad temper ?....

PRINCE: My willingness to overlook your insolence..... You'd have all been out on your ears long ago. Look at you. Your clothes are sloppy. Your work's sloppy. Look at the state of this floor. How am I supposed to live in this pigsty ?

SCUTTLE: We only did the floor this morning, sir.

PRINCE: Then do it again. And this time do it properly. I want to see it shine like a mirror.

SARAH: But won't that make it very slippy, sir?

PRINCE: Are you arguing with me?

SARAH: [*bowing*] Oh, no, Prince Henry. Never Prince Henry, sir.

PRINCE: Good. Then you can all take a cut in wages.

SHUFFLE: But.....

[*SARAH shuts her up, before they get a worse punishment. The PRINCE exits still shouting. The servants all bow*]

PRINCE: Well, get on with it. Smith, with me.

[*BUTLER follows the PRINCE out*]

SHUFFLE: Why did you stop me ?

SARAH: Because you would only have made things worse, my dear.

SHUFFLE: But the Prince cut our wages last week, and now he's cut them again. Pretty soon we'll be paying him for the privilege of being bullied.

SCUTTLE: [*sigh*] It was never like this when his Father was alive; God rest his soul; despite what he says... A really kind old gentleman, he was.

SARAH: Yes, his father was a real gentleman. Pleasant, nice, never raised his voice.

SHUFFLE: Well, it's a real shame his son doesn't take after him, then. He's a really nasty piece of work is Prince Henry.

[*The BUTLER enters*]

BUTLER: What do you think you are doing ? You heard what Prince Henry said. Get back to work, all of you. ... Now!

[*They jump up, run around, bump into each other, fall over. SCUTTLE and SHUFFLE exit. The BUTLER exits opposite shaking his head. SARAH goes to leave, but doubles back, and seeing the audience for the first time, stops and chats to them.*]

SARAH: Oh !.....Oh, hello boys and girls. [**audience: Hello** (*feebly*). *shouts*] I said hello boys and girls. [**audience: Hello**] That's better. Call me Sarah why don't you? So when I say "Hello boys and girls", you could all shout back. "Hello Sarah", all friendly like. Shall we give it a try ? Right then. Hello boys and girls. [**audience: Hello Sarah**] Oh, that's much better.

[*BUTLER enters*]

BUTLER: I thought I told you to get back to the kitchen.

SARAH: Oh, yes. I was just going. [*SARAH starts off. BUTLER exits. SARAH walks in a circle and ends up back where she started from*] Don't mind him. His bark is much worse than his bite. He's just as unhappy as everyone else working here, but what can you do when you need the job, ay?

[*The Door bell rings. The BUTLER returns*]

BUTLER: Are you still here ?

SARAH: I was just going. Wasn't I boys and girls ? [**audience: yes**].

BUTLER: Alright. Alright. Well, you can go and answer the door, first.

SARAH: It's not my job to answer the door, it's yours.

BUTLER: It's your job to do as you're told. Now get on with it.

SARAH: Oh, alright.

[*The BUTLER leaves. SARAH sticks her tongue out at his back. The door bell rings again, SCUTTLE enters*]

SCUTTLE: How comes no one ever answers the door. It's always left up to me.

SARAH: I was just going to do it, deary.

SCUTTLE: Well, I'm here now.

SARAH: So am I.

SCUTTLE: Alright, we'll both do it.

[*They laugh. SARAH and SCUTTLE open the door together. The SORCERESS is outside, disguised as an old woman. It's cold and foggy. Smoke FX .*]

SORCER: Oh, thank you, thank you. Do you think you could let a poor old woman, who has lost her way in all this fog, come in and rest a little by your fire ?

SARAH: Emmm! Oooo! I don't know, really.

SORCER: [*falling to her knees*] Oh, please, please, it's so cold out there.

SARAH: Keep your voice down.

SORCER: Please, all I want is a little food and shelter.

SCUTTLE: Oh, but I don't think Prince Henry'd like that.

SARAH: I think you'd best be on your way and find somewhere else. I'm ever so sorry.

SORCER: Oh, please ! Just a crust of dry bread, a sip of water and a short time to warm myself by the fire. I'll be no trouble I promise.... And then I'll be on my way.

SARAH: Oh! [*to audience*] What do you think ? Should we help her ? [**audience: Yes**] Are you sure ? [**audience: Yes**] Oh, well. Alright then, if you're sure. Come on then, my dear, let's get you down to the kitchen before the Prince sees you.

SORCER: Oh, thank you, my dear. You're ever so kind. Both of you.

[*SARAH and SCUTTLE start to smuggle the OLD WOMAN to the kitchen but before they can get there the PRINCE enters followed by the BUTLER.*]

PRINCE: What is the meaning of this ?

[*SARAH & SCUTTLE try to hide the OLD WOMAN behind themselves*]

SCUTTLE: Well...emmm... err...nothin' sir!

SARAH: Em! Well, you see.... em! This old lady just wanted to warm herself by the fire for a few minutes. It's so cold and foggy outside....

SCUTTLE: We was sure you wouldn't mind, just for a few minutes, sir.....

PRINCE: Do you think I pay out vast sums of money to heat this place so that you can invite all the riff-raff of the neighbourhood in to share it.

SARAH: Well, no! But it's just one old lady for a few minutes, sir. It wouldn't do no harm now would it ?

PRINCE: Get her out of here.

SORCER: Oh, please sir. Just let me rest here for a little.

PRINCE: *[laughs]* I said no. Which part of no, don't you understand, you old hag. Get her out.... Well ?

SARAH: *[to audience]* Will you help me to convince the Prince to let her stay. **[audience: Yes]** Good. Then let's boo him. **[audience: Boo]**

PRINCE: Quiet! Do you think you can make me change my mind like that ?

SARAH: Well...

PRINCE: Well you can't!

SARAH: *[to audience]* Come on! *[with audience]* Boo!**[audience: Boo]**

PRINCE: Quiet! Now, throw her out. I don't want her messing up my hallway any longer.

SARAH: But....

PRINCE: Are you refusing to do as you're told ? Do you want to be punished for your insolence?

SARAH: Oh no sir. It's just that...

PRINCE: It's just nothing. If you want anything done around here you have to do it yourself.

SARAH: *[to audience]* Come on! *[with audience]* Boo!**[audience: Boo]**

[*The audience boo the PRINCE as he takes the OLD WOMAN to the door to throw her out. As they reach the door there is a bright light and smoke. Lightning SFX. The OLD WOMAN discards her disguise and reveals herself to be the SORCERESS.*]