



Sleeping Beauty

by Bill Robertson

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Bitesize Theatre Co., 8 Green Meadows, New Broughton, Wrexham, LL11 6SG

Sleeping Beauty

CAST

	LILAC	/ DECKER		
SERV1	/ GREEN	/ MO	/ QUEEN	/ AURORA
	/ SNOW	/ JOHNSON		/ STEFAN
	/ SCARLET	/ BLACK	/ KING	
SERV2	/ BLUE	/ FLY	/ DREDD	

Scene 1 An auditorium. Today.

[Fairy LILAC, dressed as an Old Woman, enters at the back of the auditorium and walks to the front, mumbling to herself. She's the epitome of everyone's Granny (She looks uncommonly like Mary Poppins, if somewhat older, and speaks and acts like Julie Walters' "Mrs. Overall". She apparently grows younger and more sprightly as the scene progresses). She wears a large black overcoat, a black hat with flowers and a rainbow knitted scarf; she is carrying an lilac umbrella, a large tapestry Gladstone bag and an old battered suitcase. When she reaches the front, she sets the suitcase down and perches on it. She talks to the audience conversationally.]

LILAC: Hello, everyone. [**Audience: Hello. but feebly**] Oh! I'm sure you young people can do much better than that. Hello, everyone! [**Audience: Hello.**] That's much better. Have you all come to see the show ? [**Audience: Yes**] You'll have to speak up, I don't hear so well nowadays. Have you all come to see the show ? [**Audience: Yes**] Good ! I like a good show. Don't you ? [**Audience: Yes**] Yes! Well, I was just passing and when I saw Bitesize were here, I thought I'd just stop off and watch for a bit. You don't mind do you ? [**Audience: No**] Good! I'm on my way to stay with my family, you see. They have me every year.... Yes! It's nice to be with your family.... at least for a few weeks it's nice... after that... wellAnd it's not like it used to be, is it? I mean in my day, we never had television or playstations or mobile phones! Noisy, bleep-bleep things. Drives you batty.... I know you probably think I am already..... [*starts to reminisce*] Anyway, when I was a girl, we used to sit around the fire and tell each other stories.... real stories. Not like that Eastenders or Hollyoaks. No! No! Real stories... about Kings... and beautiful Princesses... and charming Princes... and **Fairies**. Oh, yes! Always lots and lots of Fairies. [*sigh.... Pause*]I was a Fairy, you know.... Yes... back in the good old days, when being a fairy meant something.... Well, I say was, I still am, I suppose. [*chuckle*] Though you wouldn't think it to look at me, would you ? In fact, I'm probably the last real fairy, there is. All the others have sold out to commercialism. They're all doing pantomimes or granting wishes willy-nilly, even advertising the National Lottery.... I don't know what fairyland is coming to, I really don't.... Well, you won't catch me doing it, that's for sure. No, no!... But then again, nobody pays me any mind. Not nowadays. They used to, once upon a time.... Well, I was famous you see.... I'm the fairy who saved Sleeping Beauty. I am. I'm that same **Fairy Lilac** that saved the Sleeping Beauty. But you can just call me Lilac. We only use Fairy Lilac on special occasions..... Of course, it was a very long time ago, butWell... Do you think you would like to hear about it ? [**Audience: Yes**] Would you ? [**Audience: Yes**] Well, aren't you nice. Now! Sit up straight. Spit, spot.... Now!... it all started..... [*Starts to talk in Storybook fashion*] Once upon a time, in a land not so very far away, where..... where..... [*has an idea*] Wait a minute! Perhaps I could show you... If I still have it, that is...

[*LILAC searches in her bag for her magic wand and extracts an old fashioned "traditional" wand but it's a bit battered*]

LILAC: Look at that! I thought I'd thrown that old thing away years ago. They don't make wands like they used to.... Just as well. [*she searches again and finds a light sabre or a Harry Potter wand*] Oh! Now! I didn't think I still had that. I should have given it back to old what's-his-name. Ah well! Never mind! [*she searches again and finds an electronic wand*] Ah! Here it is. That's better, isn't it ? Now let's see if I can still remember the spell that will take us back to the beginning of the story. [*thinks out loud*] Now, what was it ? Supercalifragi...thingamybob. No, no, not that one..... I know. Bibbidy-bobbidy-boo! [*smiles at audience, then her smile drops*] No! No! No! Em!.... Oh, yes... that's it!

Sit up straight. Hands on knees.

Give a blink, and then a sneeze. Achoo!

Clap your hands. Clap one. Clap two.

And this will make our wish come true.

[*She waves the wand but nothing happens*] Oh, dear. [*she shakes the wand*] I haven't used it lately. The batteries have probably run down. [*has an idea*] I don't suppose you could help me, could you ? [**Audience:Yes**] Will you all help me? [**Audience:Yes**] Good ! Now, let me just put these things out of the way. [*LILAC puts her suitcase, bag and umbrella behind the set. Dip wand in bubble mix at this point. LILAC remains near the set*] Right now!

Altogether. After three.

To say the spell just follow me. One. Two. Three.

[*with audience*] *Sit up straight. Hands on knees.*

Give a blink, and then a sneeze. Achoo!

Clap your hands. Clap one. Clap two.

And this will make our wish come true.

[*LILAC waves her wand. This time is plays a tune and issues a flood of bubbles. Spell sfx. Flickering lights*]

Here we go!

[*Time travel music. Bubble machine. LILAC exits in a cloud of bubbles.]*

JOHNSON: No, your majesty. But I'm sure it won't be long now.

KING: Yes, yes. You're probably right. Carry on Mr. Johnson.

JOHNSON: Yes, your majesty.

[*KING resumes his pacing, frequently looking anxiously offstage, to where the QUEEN is. JOHNSON starts pacing behind the KING. There is a puff of bubbles. LILAC arrives, now changed into the youngest fairy and carrying her old-fashioned wand.*]

LILAC: *[to audience]* Oh! It worked! And you're all still here. Good!..... I haven't missed anything have I ? *[A baby cries off. The KING looks at Mr. JOHNSON. They run to each other, hug and jump for joy and then both rush off.]* No! Just in time. Now! *[storybook style]* Here we are at the beginning of the story, and we have a new baby princess in the kingdom... The King and Queen are going to call her, **Aurora**. Such a pretty name, don't you think ? *[She waves her wand. Spell sfx. The scene changes to Fairyland as she talks]* But for now we have to go and meet the other fairies. Oh, yes. There are more than just "little ol' me" as Fairy Scarlet would say.

Scene 3 Fairyland

[*Enter Fairy GREEN {Northern, Friend of the Earth}; her wand has a Sunflower; & Fairy BLUE {Dreamy, Deep, Wet} ;her wand has a blue cloud and a crystal ball]*

LILAC: Now, these two fairies are Fairy Blue and Fairy Green. Hello fairies !

GREEN: Hello Lilac, what's fresh ?

LILAC: Well, I've just come from the Palace.....

BLUE: *[Dreamily]* My crystal ball tells me that the King and Queen are celebrating the arrival of the new baby princess, and soon the rest of the kingdom will be celebrating, toooooo.

LILAC: That's right! They're going to call her, Aurora.

GREEN: That's a funny kind of name to call anyone. What's wrong with good proper names like Rose or Lily or Daisy or Poppy ?

BLUE: Aurora was the name of the Goddess of the Dawn, who rose from her home at the edge of the deep blue Ocean, to open the gates of heaven for the sun. It's a beautiful name.

GREEN: I suppose.

BLUE: Well, I predict that she will have eyes that are as blue as the deep blue sea.

GREEN: Ay, well, let's just hope she doesn't grow up to be a fat podge like her father.

LILAC: Green! That's a bit unkind.

GREEN: You think ? Well, I always call a spade, a spade.

SNOW: *[Enter Fairy SNOW {Dame: Proud, clear, sharp, Ice Queen}; her wand has a*