

KING RAT: What? Him? It's the worst of all my fears
He'll be no good. I promise, he's still wet behind the ears.
So! Dick heads this way!
You and he will rue the day you ever messed with me
I'll win before this panto's through

FAIRY: Okay King Rat - we'll see!

KING RAT EXITS AS FAIRY BOW BELLS WAVES HER WAND

FAIRY: (TO AUDIENCE) You'd better make yourselves comfortable, this is going to be quite a tale.

FAIRY WAVES HER WAND AS THE GAUZE FLIES OUT

MUSIC CUE: BELLTREE AND UNDERSCORE

DICK: Oh dear! I must have been asleep for hours - and what a funny dream I had about a huge rat and a special lady and bells that seemed to be talking to me!
I'm starving! I've got to get some food and find a place to live.
But I can't stand around here all day. I must be on my way.

HE PICKS UP HIS STICK AND BUNDLE

FAIRY: I'm feeling sorry for young Dick
In London all alone
He needs a friend to help him
A pal to call his own.
I'll conjure up a buddy
To thwart that evil rat
Oh deary me - what can it be?
I know! A clever cat!

SHE WAVES HER WAND

MUSIC CUE: STING - BELL TREE

FAIRY'S SPECIAL OUT AS SHE EXITS

THE CAT TUMBLES ONTO STAGE BUMPING INTO DICK

MUSIC CUE: UNDERSCORE

DICK: Wow! Where did you come from? Are you lost?

CAT SHAKES HEAD

No home eh? Just like me. We make a fine pair. I suppose we should stick together. What do you say?

CAT REACTS - VERY HAPPY

DICK: I'm Dick Whittington. And you are?

CAT SHRUGS SHOULDERS

DICK: You don't have a name?

CAT SHAKES HEAD

You've got to have a name. Let me ask my friends. What shall we call him boys and girls?

AUDIENCE RESPOND. A VARIETY OF NAMES. DICK DECIDES ON:

Tommy?

MUSIC CUE: INTRO OPENING NUMBER

LIGHTS CHANGE AND CLOTH FLIES AND TOWNS PEOPLE ARE DISCOVERED

DICK: Tommy, that's a great name. What do you think?

TOMMY SOMMERSAULTS AND GIVES THUMBS UP

DICK: Then Tommy it is!

MUSIC CUE: OPENING NUMBER