

SCENE 1 : THE VILLAGE OF OLD WINDY BOTTOM

(Full stage typical village scene. The CHORUS and DANCERS are discovered on as Villagers at a market in the Village Square. Some of the CHORUS are the shoppers, whilst others are market traders with barrow-type market stalls, and/or simply sell their wares from baskets etc.)

MUSIC #2: Lively Number (JACK, CHORUS and DANCERS)

(Short bright number to set the scene. JACK enters SL over the introduction or mid-way.)

JACK: Good morning everyone.

CHOR MEMB: Hey, Jack – where's your market stall?

JACK: Oh, we've nothing to sell, I'm afraid. That Giant's castle in the sky has put our garden in the shade, so nothing's growing! I don't know how we'd manage if it wasn't for Mum's dear old cow, Buttermilk.

(Thunder SFX change the mood as lights flash, then dim slightly and ALL look up in fear.)

CHOR MEMB: Oh, no – that's the Giant moving about up there!

CHOR MEMB: Isn't it horrible, being constantly in his shadow?

CHOR MEMB: It's so serious, I hear the King is coming to address the villagers about the problem.

JACK: Yes, but let's try to look on the bright side. Our village fayre starts tomorrow and somehow, sooner or later, we'll get the better of that Giant, so happiness can return to our village.

(The VILLAGERS cheer and lights return to a bright state as the music starts.)

MUSIC #2A: Play-off

(An instrumental reprise of the last few bars of Music #2, as ALL except JACK exit both sides, taking their market stalls/baskets with them.)

JACK: *(To audience)* I wonder where my brother Simon has got to. He was supposed to meet me here. You see, Mum asked him to bring all her pots and pans to sell at the market so she'll have some money to pay her taxes. Oh, where is he? He's so silly, he's probably got lost!

MUSIC #3: Comedy Play-on

(SIMON makes a noisy comedy entrance through the audience with a variety of pots and pans on a chain around his neck or fastened to his belt, including a frying pan, chip basket and colander, etc. He causes as much noise and mayhem as possible on his way to the stage, even maybe forcing his way through a row in the centre seating block!)

SIMON: *(Shouted during this entrance)* Hold on, Jack ... I'm on my way ... I'm coming, Jack ... I'll be there in a minute ... I'm just finding my way through ... Hang on, Jack ... Here I come ... etc.

(He eventually reaches the stage and the music fades.)

JACK: Oh, there you are. What's taken you so long?

SIMON: Well, Mum said to economise, so I walked here behind the bus and saved fifty pence.

JACK: That's very sensible, Simon.

SIMON: No it's not – if I'd walked behind a taxi, I could have saved five pounds!

JACK: Don't be so daft. And why have you only got one glove on?

SIMON: 'Cos the weather forecast said it would be warm, but on the other hand, it may be cold!

JACK: And look – one of your shoelaces is undone.

SIMON: That's right – the label inside the shoe says "Taiwan"!

JACK: And they're on the wrong feet.

SIMON: They can't be! These are the only feet I've got! *(During the following, he removes the chain or belt with the pots and pans attached.)*

JACK: No wonder they call you "Simple Simon"! And you're so late, the market's over! Mum will be arriving soon to hear the King's address to the villagers, so you'd better get ready to explain yourself! *(He exits SL.)*