



Dick Whittington

Synopsis

Our hero, Dick Whittington, leaves his home in the country and heads for London to seek fame and fortune after hearing that the streets are paved with gold. On route, Dick meets a stray cat called Tom. Dick and Tom immediately hit it off and their adventure begins!

Dick soon realises that making his fortune isn't going to be so easy but manages to secure a job at the world famous, Fitzwarren's Emporium, where he meets and falls in love with the Alderman's daughter, Alice.

Unfortunately, along with the rest of London, the Fitzwarren's empire is under attack from the evil King Rat and his pesky Rat Pack. When Dick and Tom set to eliminating the rats to save the Emporium, King Rat vows to have his revenge and hatches a plan to get rid of our hero and his feline friend once and for all.

King Rat frames Dick for a terrible crime and poor Dick finds himself destitute and alone. But with a little help and encouragement from Ella, the fairy of Bow Bells, Dick sets out to clear his name and win back Alice. In the process, Dick and Tom stow away on the Alderman's Ship, the Saucy Sal and embark on treacherous voyage to an exotic land. Our hero encounters many perils along the way, a ferocious storm, a terrifying shipwreck, and a mysterious tropical island, to name but a few.

Can Dick defeat King Rat and clear his name? Can he win back Alice? Will he find his fame and fortune? If anyone can do it, Dick Whittington can!

Characters

Dick Whittington An honest and likeable chap.

Tom the Cat Dick's faithful companion. Tom is fluent in English, though he never reveals this to the cast.

Alderman Fitzwarren Wealthy owner of Fitzwarren's Emporium.

Alice Fitzwarren The Alderman's daughter.

Sarah The Housekeeper (The Dame) The Alderman's long-suffering shopkeeper.

Idle Jack Sarah's idle son.

Rosie Shop assistant at Fitzwarren's Emporium.

Ella - The Fairy of Bow Bells Fairy who speaks in rhyme.

King Rat An evil rodent villain and leader of the Rat Pack.

The Rat Pack – Frank and Dean & Sammy (also Franco, Deano & Sammio in Act 2) A gang of ratty criminals.

Captain Birdseye Captain of the The Saucy Sal.

First Mate Findus The ship's first mate.

Able Seaman Who The ship's crew.

Able Seaman What The ship's crew.

Able Seaman Why The ship's crew.

(Who, What and Why are always together)

The Sultan of Costa Lumbago (Could be a Sultana) Wealthy ruler of Costa Lumbago.

Newspaper Seller (Small role, could be combined with Sultan or played by chorus)

Chorus 4+

Suggested Songs

Song 1. Down Town (Petula Clark)

Song 2. I Can't Help Falling In Love With You (Elvis Presley)

Song 3. Go West (The Pet Shop Boys)

Song 4. From Now On (From the Greatest Showman)

Song 5. Summer Nights (From Grease)

Song 6. The Rats (witches) are Back (From Hocus Pocus 2)

Song 7. One Way Or another (One Direction)

Song 8. Celebration (Kool & The Gang)

Additional Songs for Skits: If I were not upon this stage/ship

Act 1

Scene 1. London Town

Scene 2. Front of Tabs - On the road to London

Scene 3. Fitzwarren's Emporium

Scene 4. Front of Tabs - Fairy vs. King Rat

Scene 5. Fitzwarren's Emporium

Scene 6. Front of Tabs - On the road from of London

Scene 7. On board The Saucy Sal

Act 2

Scene 1. On the beach in Costa Lumbago

Scene 2. Front of tabs - King Rat and The Pi-rats

Scene 3. At the Sultans Palace

Scene 4. Front of tabs - King Rat vs. Fairy

Scene 5. Fitzwarren's Emporium

Scene 6. Front of tabs - The Drill

Scene 7. London Town - Finale

Dick Whittington

Act 1

Scene 1

Front of tabs.

(SFX Magical bells) Fairy enters.

Fairy Welcome to our panto, I am your storyteller,
I'm the fairy of Bow Bells but you can call me Ella.
Our tale is set in London Town, a truly vibrant city,
Where gentlemen are charming and ladies oh so pretty.
Where young men come to seek success, because they're often told,
That here in good old London Town, the streets are paved with gold.
Our story is of one such lad, a clever boy and quick,
His name is Richard Whittington, but we shall call him Dick.
He's heard the rumours going round and so he's come to see,
If he can make his fortune and fulfil his destiny.

Dick enters carrying a bundle on a stick.

Dick Excuse me, is this the way to London?

Fairy Stay upon this road and the signs will lead the way.
It's only fifteen miles or so, you'll be there by midday!

Dick Thanks, I'm off to seek my fortune. I'm Dick, who are you?

Fairy You can call me Ella, I'm the fairy of Bow Bells.
I'm here in case you need me for advice or magic spells.
You seem to be a decent chap; courageous, kind, and plucky.
So let me be the first to say, I hope your trip is lucky.

Dick Thanks, I'll look you up when I get to London.

Fairy I'm a friend to count on if you need helping hand,
When situations get you down or don't go quite as planned.
If you need me call my name, I'll be there in a flash,
Now time is moving on, Dick, I think you'd better dash.

Dick You're right, Goodbye.

Dick exits.

Fairy *(To Audience)* Well, that's the introductions done.
Now, let's get on and have some fun.
Just sit back and enjoy the show

As off to London Town we go!

Fairy exits.

Curtain opens on a bustling London scene. Alice, Alderman Fitzwarren and Rosie enter.

Song 1

Villager 1 Morning, Alderman Fitzwarren.

Alderman Good morning.

Villager 2 Morning, Alice.

Alice Good morning.

Villager 1 How's business, Alderman Fitzwarren?

Alderman It could be better, this awful rat epidemic is affecting trade.

Alice What we need is a new Lord Mayor, someone to sort out these rats.

The Alderman, Alice, and Rosie exit into Fitzwarrens store. A newspaper seller enters wearing a board with the daily headline written on it.

News Seller Standard! Standard! Read all about it. Cartoonist found murdered; details are sketchy! Rat epidemic reaches an all-time high. Public are warned to keep a look out for gang leader, King Rat.

Villager 1 No one knows where evil King Rat will strike next.

Villager 2 The rats are taking over!

Villager 1 (*Points*) Look, there's one now!

A rat runs across the stage (either chorus or one of Rat Pack)

Villager 3 They destroy everything!

Villager 4 Not to mention the disease - the filthy little beasts!

Villager 1 I hope King Rat is back behind bars soon.

Villager 2 Then things might settle down.

Villager 3 I noticed the Saucy Sal is ready to set sail again.

Villager 4 Here's Captain Birdseye now.

Captain Birdseye enters and strolls past the villagers. He tips his cap and greets them.

Captain Ahoy there, me hearties!

Villagers in unison (*cheerily*) Ahoy, Captain Birdseye!

He exits opposite.

Villager 1 What a fine gent!

Villager 2 There's something fishy about a sailor!

Villager 3 I married my husband because he said he was a navel man.

Villager 4 I never knew your husband was in the navy.

Villager 3 He isn't...he just had a thing for belly buttons!

Villager 1 I wonder where The Saucy Sal heading?

Villager 2 *Cod* knows!

Villager 3 Probably some *plai*ce tropical.

Villager 4 Ask a sailor and see if *eel* tell you.

They all laugh.

Villager 1 Stop, I think I'm going to pull a *muscle*.

Villager 2 *Clam* up, your awful jokes are making me *crabby*.

Villager 3 She's doing it on *porpoise*!

Findus staggers on with a bottle of grog in one hand and a telescope in the other.

Villager 1 Oh no, it's Findus, the Saucy Sal's first mate.

Villager 2 He's been on the grog.

Villager 1 He'll be telling us all about his life on the open waves.

Villager 2/3/4 Again!

The other two nod in agreement.

Villager 2 Once he starts reminiscing, there's no escape.

Findus (*Hiccups*) Morning all! Has anyone seen the crew? When I was a lad, I was up at the crack of dawn scrubbing the deck and getting the ship seaworthy. Those were the days! As my dad used to say, the good old days when you could leave your back door wide open.

Villager 2 That's why his submarine sank!

Findus Have I ever told you about...

Villager 1 Yes.

Findus But, I haven't finished...

Villager 3 Is that the time, I have to feed my budgie.

Villager 4 I have to see a man about a dog.

All Villagers No time for idle chit chat/must be off/ta-ta etc.

The villagers exit in a hurry.

Findus (*to audience*) I was going to tell 'em about the time I came face to face with a Great White off the coast of Bora Bora. Would you like to hear about it?

Captain Birdseye (*off stage*) **FINDUS!**

Findus Ah, that's the captain, you'll have to wait. He doesn't like to be kept waiting! He'll have me for insuborr...insubordinn...being naughty!

Captain Birdseye *(off stage)* FINDUS!

Findus I'll give you some advice. There's nothing the captain hates more than being ignored! If he says, 'Ahoy there me hearties!' You'd better be sure to shout back 'Ahoy there, Captain'. There's many a sailor walked the plank for being discurr...discurtee ...rude! Let's have a practice before he arrives. I'll be the captain. 'Ahoy there me hearties!' *(Audience respond)* Is there anyone out there? I've had more response from a frozen fish finger! *(Repeat)* That's more like it, we'll make sailors of you yet!

Captain Birdseye enters. Able seamen Who, What and Why follow carrying mops.

Captain Birdseye Ahoy there, Findus!

Findus Ahoy there, Captain!

Captain Birdseye *(to audience)* Ahoy there me hearties!

The audience responds.

Captain Birdseye They're better than yesterday's audience, Findus.

Findus Aye, Captain.

Captain Birdseye All hands-on deck! Time to get the Sal, ship shape and ready to sail.

Who, What & Why *(saluting)* Aye Aye, Captain!

Seaman Who Swab the deck.

Seaman What Man the riggin'.

Seaman Why Hoist the main sail.

Findus Where are we heading, Captain?

Captain Birdseye Who knows, the world is our oyster! Findus, I'll leave the crew in your capable hands while I plan a route. I'm going to make like a banana and split.

Findus Aye, Captain.

Captain Birdseye exits.

Findus You heard the captain, get to work! I'm going to grab forty winks. I was out late at the *(insert local pub)*, arranging supplies for the trip.

ACT 2

Scene 1

(SFX Magical bells) Fairy enters front of tabs.

Fairy I bet you weren't expecting that, a nautical disaster!
What has become of Tom the cat, and Dick his gallant master?
The Sal is on the ocean floor she's sailed her final quest,
But what of Alice, Jack and Rosie, Sarah and the rest?
Is this the end for Captain Birdseye and his loyal staff?
Don't be daft; of course, it's not...It's just the second half.

Curtains open on a beach scene.

Captain Birdseye enters CSR with Findus, who carries his telescope and a bottle of grog.

Captain Birdseye Ahoy there, me hearties!

The audience responds.

Captain Birdseye It's a total disaster! We're the only survivors from the ship. The Saucy Sal is gone forever.

Findus Don't despair Captain! We'll get a new ship; we'll call her the Saucier Sal. She'll be faster and more splendif, splendifer...hic, bigger than the Sal. Let's have a kip and then we'll work out what to do. *(Puts the telescope to his eye)* There's a spot over there.

They exit opposite.

Jack and Rosie enter USL.

Rosie It's a total disaster! We're the only survivors from the ship. All alone on this beautiful tropical island...just the two of us, whatever will we do?

Jack I've no idea, I'm sure I'll think of something. *(He looks around and points)* Let's stop over there for forty winks and then we'll form a plan.

They exit opposite.

Who, What and Why enter CSL, covered in seaweed.

Who It's a total disaster! We're the only survivors from the ship. Luckily, we all got out together.

Why *(clearing water from his ears)* What?

What *(doing the same)* Pardon?

Who I said, lucky we got out together.

Why *(clearing water from his ears)* What?

What *(doing the same)* Pardon?

Who This is going to be a long trip! Let's take a break, come on fellas.

Why What did he say?

What No idea.

They exit opposite

Dick and Alice enter USR.

Alice It's a total disaster! We're the only survivors from the ship. Oh Dick, I'd never have made it if you hadn't saved me. *(crying)* Where are the others?

Dick Don't cry Alice. They're probably safe and well further up the beach. It's Tom I'm worried about; it's a well-known fact that cats don't like water.

Alice Your right, if we survived then there's no reason that the others didn't make it too. *(They look around, Tom enters)* Look, there's Tom!

Dick *(hugs Tom)* Tom, I was worried about you!

Tom *(Aside to audience)* He needn't have been, I can swim like a catfish!

Dick Come on, let's look for the others.

They exit opposite.

Sarah and Alderman Fitzwarren DSR. Sarah is wearing something tropical and flamboyant as she helps the bedraggled Alderman.

Sarah It's a total disaster! We're the only survivors from the ship. I had to get out of those wet things, they were chaffing in all the wrong places. I found the Sals sewing box washed up on the beach, so I threw together something a little more suitable for the climate. What do you think? *(She poses).*

Alderman Have you seen the others, Sarah?

Sarah I can't see a thing without my glasses.

Alderman I didn't realise your eyesight was that bad.

Sarah Too much tv as a child! I used to watch Mary Poppins on repeat...now I suffer with umdiddle-iddle-iddle-umdiddle eye! I think we are the only survivors from the ship. *(Over acts)* Oh, woe am I! What will become of me? We'll be kidnapped by savages, and I'll be forced to marry a big hairy chested brute. Actually...that doesn't sound so bad!

Alderman Or we could be kidnapped by savages who roast us on a spit until we're crisp, and serve us up with a delicious homemade mango and kiwi compote!

Sarah *(very loudly)* Noooo! I'm too young to die.

Everyone together *(from the wings where they exited)* Be quiet...we're trying to think!

Everyone enters from the wings. Jack brings on sweets in a bag.

All together Who said that? (*Pointing at each other*) You're alive. We're not the only survivors from the ship!

They all embrace. The Alderman sees Dick with Alice.

Alderman Dick Whittington! What are you doing here? I told you to stay away from Alice.

Alice Father, Dick saved my life, I nearly drowned.

Alderman You saved my Alice? I am eternally grateful but I still don't trust you, Whittington. I'll be keeping an eye on you.

Dick You're wrong about me Alderman Fitzwarren, I'll will prove my innocence.

Alderman We have more pressing things to worry about now. Like how are we going to get back to London?

Jack We won't go hungry. I found these sweets washed up on the beach, they're from the Sal's cargo.

Sarah (*taking the sweets*) I'll take those, I know what you're like with sweets.

Rosie So, where exactly are we?

Captain Birdseye By my reckoning, we're lost on a tropical Island in the middle of the Ocean. What say you Findus?

Findus Aye, Sir!

Rosie Do you think it's deserted?

Captain Birdseye I'll send out a scouting party.

Jack If it's safe, maybe we could stay for a bit?

What We need a few days to recover from our ordeal.

Who Put up our feet!

Why And re-charge our batteries.

Sarah I could top up my tan, do you want to see my white bits?

They all step away from Sarah and cringe.

Captain Birdseye I'll lead the scouting party. Findus, come with me.

Findus Aye, Sir!

Captain Birdseye Who, What, Why, follow us.

Who, What & Why Aye, Skipper.

Captain Birdseye Let's make like atom and split.

Birdseye, Findus, Who, What and Why exit.

Alderman I rather like the idea of a little R & R. I have been very busy, being busy and important recently.

Sarah You must be exhausted! You know what you could do with?

Jack I have a feeling that you're going to tell us, mum.

Sarah The love of a good woman! I've always fancied a holiday romance. *(She sidles over to the Alderman)* The hot sun caressing our skin! Warm sand between our toes! Even a little skinny-dipping! What do you say Fitzwarren? It will give us something to write home about when we send our postcards.

Song 6

The curtain closes at the end of the song.

Captain Birdseye, Findus, Who, What and Why enter front of tabs with towels wrapped around their waists and wearing swim hats with goggles on their foreheads.

Captain Birdseye I'd say that was a thorough search! Wouldn't you, Findus?

Findus Aye, Captain.

Captain Birdseye No sign of anything suspicious!

Who, What & Why No, Captain.

Captain Birdseye Then I think this is the perfect time to get in some swimming practice.

Who, What & Why Aye, Sir.