



The Emperor's New Clothes

Synopsis

In a kingdom where fashion rules, the emperor is preparing for the most extravagant event of the year - his royal birthday parade. Determined to unveil a showstopping outfit, he commissions Percy Tinker, a kind-hearted local tailor and unlikely hero, to create a spectacular outfit. With help from his apprentice Ziggy, Percy designs a marvellous pair of musical trousers to dazzle the crowds. But trouble is brewing.

The scheming Prime Minister, Baron Starcher, is desperate to seize power, and he knows the only way to do so is to make the emperor look ridiculous. He enlists his mischievous nephews, Snip and Tuck - masters of deception - to pose as expert weavers. Their plan? To create an “invisible” suit made from magical fabric that can only be seen by those who are truly wise and worthy. Not wanting to seem foolish, the emperor’s loyal but unquestioning advisors go along with the lie.

As the parade draws near, Snip and Tuck attempt to sabotage Percy’s chances by stealing his trousers. Suspicious of their behaviour, Percy teams up with the emperor’s sharp-witted wardrobe mistress Betty Bobin and his courageous daughter - Princess Pearl – who he secretly loves. And with a little help from Fairy Glimmer, a mysterious fashion blogging fairy, they set out to uncover the truth.

With time running out and the parade fast approaching, Percy must outwit the tricksters and discover the truth before the emperor unwittingly reveals far more than he intended. Will honesty triumph over vanity, or will the greatest fashion disaster of all time steal the spotlight?

Characters

Fairy Glimmer Fashion blogging fairy.

Percy Tinker Hero. Local tailor.

Ziggy Percy's apprentice.

Princess Pearl Emperor's daughter.

Emperor Fashion obsessed ruler.

Needle & Thread Emperor's advisors – 'yes' men.

Snip & Tuck Sneaky weavers.

Betty Bobbin Dame. Emperor's wardrobe mistress.

Prime Minister Starcher – The Emperor's wicked Prime Minister.

Chorus.

Song Suggestions

1. Put On Your Sunday Clothes – From Hello Dolly
 2. The One And Only – Cheney Hawkes
 3. Call Me Maybe – Carly Rae Jepsen
 4. Dedicated Follower Of Fashion – The Kinks
 5. When The Going Gets Tough – Billy Ocean
 6. Unwritten – Natasha Beddingfield
 7. I'll Be There For You – The Rembrandts
 8. You're Never Fully Dressed Without A Smile – From Annie
 9. Together We'll be Okay – Cannon and Ball
 10. Made You Look – Meghan Trainor
 11. We Don't Have To Take Our Clothes Off – Jermaine Stewart
- Extra: Audience participation song

The Emperor's New Clothes

Act 1

Scene 1

Front of tabs.

SFX Magical sting. Fairy Glimmer enters.

Glimmer Hello folks...

My name is Fairy Glimmer, I sparkle, and I glow,
An eager fashion blogger, reporting what I know.
I move through the streets, so quiet and small,
And no one suspects me, but I see it all.

The Thimbleton folk are dapper and chic,
Around every corner there's a trendy boutique.
I study the sidewalk and peer through the glass,
And scribble my notes as the trendsetters pass.

Who's dressed to kill, who's daring and bold,
Who's so last season, who's dripping in gold.
They heed every word of my fashion review,
A popular column, with a magical view.

But in recent days I've noticed a shift,
There's trouble afoot... if you get my drift.
So, I'll be on my guard with magical flair,
And if I spot a problem, I'll be right there.

Snip and Tuck enter noisily.

Snip Well, well - Fairy Glimmer!

Tuck What a surprise.

Glimmer Oh, no! Talking of problems... Snip and Tuck - what are you doing here? *(To audience)* These two troublemakers were banished from Fairyland for mischief making and crimes against magic.

Snip We were framed!

Tuck Yeah, it was a fix!

Snip Hold on - aren't you supposed to speak in rhyme?

Glimmer I am... most of the time.

Tuck Most of the time... that's not very magical!

Glimmer I can't be expected to keep it up for the entire panto! Do you know how exhausting that is?

Snip But... it's literally your thing.

Glimmer You try giving it a go, clever clogs!

Tuck *(Thinks)* Umm... we don't wanna burst your bubble,
But... we 'aint here to cause no... err... trouble!

Snip *(Thinks)* We're honest chaps, we do no wrong,
We just like... err...

Tuck *(Jumps in)* Scamming?

Snip No!

Tuck Cheating?

Snip No! I've got it! We just like singing... all day long?

Tuck Singing!?

Snip You're right, this rhyming's harder than it sounds.

Glimmer I rest my case.

Snip We'll stick to what we're good at.

Tuck Yeah, we'll stick to lying.

Snip elbows Tuck in the ribs.

Tuck I mean... lying around - doing nuffin'!

Glimmer What brings you to Thimbleton?

Snip That's none of your business.

Tuck Definitely nothing suspicious.

Snip Or illegal.

Glimmer I don't believe you. You're up to no good.

Tuck As if!

Snip What makes you think that?

Glimmer You're always up to something devious.

Tuck Like...?

Glimmer Like those dodgy deals you posted on our fairy socials... TrickToc and Wingstagram.

Snip Dodgy deals!?

Glimmer Yes, the 'Invisible wings' scam.

Tuck They were a bargain!

Act 2

Scene 1

Front of tabs.

Glimmer Welcome back, the interval's through,
Act one's sewn-up, now on to Act Two!
The birthday parade is almost here,
And there's trouble ahead... that much is clear.

Those weavers are weaving a terrible scheme,
They've sabotaged our Percy's dream.
So, we're at the palace, to raise the alarm,
Before they can cause any more harm.

But will he uncover the weavers hack?
And get his musical trousers back?
The story's thin, but the plot is thick,
And with your help we'll unravel it quick!

So, hold onto your hats, it's time to go,
The parade is starting – it's on with the show!
If everyone's ready, it's time for Act Two,
Excuse me - I've got some blogging to do!

Song 6

Glimmer exits. Percy and Ziggy enter opposite wearing trench coats, dark glasses, and fake moustaches.

Ziggy Why are we sneaking around the palace?

Percy It's the only way to find out what's going on.

Ziggy Someone's coming.

They look off stage.

Ziggy It's Betty and Princess Pearl.

Percy (*Dreamily*) Princess Pearl... her smile lights up the room like a sunbeam breaking through the clouds.

Ziggy I'm sure it does, but if you keep doing that whenever you hear her name, we'll never get anything done.

Percy Sorry.

Betty and Pearl enter.

Pearl What's going on?

Betty What's with all this cloak and dagger stuff?

Ziggy Tell them, Mr Percy.

Percy I've lost my trousers.

Pearl Sorry!?

Ziggy It's what we've been working on for the emperor's birthday - musical trousers.

Pearl Musical trousers... what a unique idea.

Ziggy Last night, someone broke in and stole them.

Percy We suspect the weavers. They're up to no good. They're hiding something and we need your help to uncover it.

Betty I agree. They're mighty secretive – the emperor has them hauled up in a secret room somewhere in the palace.

Pearl No one's allowed to see their work... not even me.

Percy We must find out their plan before the parade starts.

Pearl Father has extra security all around the palace.

Ziggy Don't worry - we have disguises.