

Sleeping Beauty

(or, if you prefer, Sleeping Beauties)

A Children's Pantomime

by
John McGie

CHARACTERS

Storyteller: at times a tad scattered and bookish he narrates the show from a large book and acts as intermediary and prompter between show and audience. He also supplies the voice for the King and Queen (Princess Precious's parents) and the King (Prince Frogger's father).

Princess Precious (Sleeping Beauty): (female) initially a princess to the max she gets a knock on the head causing amnesia. She is told by the Dame that she is THOR STRONGMAN - Princess Precious's protector. (The Dame switched places with Princess Precious.) Princess Precious takes on a rugged, manly persona. "You're pretty Precious."

Prince Frogger (the g is soft): (female) flamboyant. A bit of a tosser. "What ho. Say what. I say. Ho ho. What say we dilly dally with frolicking abandon?" His father, King Dum, married the Ogre Princess (the Wicked Fairy) for she was loaded (and rich). Every once and a while his tongue might dart out along with other reptilian traits. These are left over from a curse he never quite got rid of.

Nanny Piddlepot : (male) the Dame. The nanny of Princess Precious. Self-serving but always meaning well she usually inadvertently screws things up.

Fairy Tinkle: (female) like Glinda the Good Witch with anger issues. Fairy Tinkle accidentally turned her mother, the Fairy Queen, into a cow who then ate her wand. If Fairy Tinkle cannot catch the cow and get the wand back her mother could be destined to stay as a cow forever. Because there is no competent fairy keeping a watch over the panto things tend to derail from time to time. Any magic Fairy Tinkle does is hit and miss at best. In truth she's not a very good fairy. The other six fairies are:

- Fairy Sparkle
- Fairy Flutter
- Fairy Maryweather
- Fairy Boat
- Fairy Terminal (she's not at all well)
- and Fairy Nuff

Fairy Tinkle is always supposed to speak in rhyme. Fairy Union rules. The longer she is without the wand the less she is able to rhyme. She finds this very frustrating.

Caraboose (with the Big Caboose): a bit like Nora Desmond from Sunset Boulevard - her best days as a powerful wicked fairy are far behind her. She is exotically and darkly beautiful but toxic. The pain of losing her love caused her to become one of the most feared and powerful witches. Due to over-staring at a love letter from her long lost love Caraboose is extremely nearsighted. But vanity prevents her from wearing her coke bottle glasses so she is constantly bumping into things. Ratfink assists her the best he can but she often reverts into reliving her glory days and ends up casting inappropriate spells.

Rat Fink: (male) the long suffering assistant of Caraboose. He is a rat on his way to becoming a man. ("Only a couple more spells to go.") Because of this he still has a small tail and some other minor rat traits. We find out that he was once Nanny Piddlepot's rat. He so loved Nanny Piddlepot that he searched out Caraboose in the hopes of becoming human. "I thought if I became a man you might love me."

Sir Cumference - The Cardboard Knight: (male) very round (fat) with a cardboard box on his head as a helmet. He was once a brave knight but lost all his worldly belongings, including his armor, to a Troll in an attempt to get out of the Enchanted Wood. He speaks of his long lost love - the fairest, most genteel maiden in all the lands. Prince Frogger and Thor Strongman help him escape the Enchanted Wood.

King & Queen: (child) single child holding a puppet/doll of the Queen. If the King (or Queen) say anything it is said by the Storyteller but lip-synced by the child. He wears a beard and a crown.

King Dum (Prince Frogger's father): same kid. Same Storyteller lip sync routine. Different beard.

Morning: (adult female): backstage crew forced to be the daughter of Prince Frogger. First in diapers. Then in kid clothes. Like Buster Keaton caught in the headlights. No spoken lines.

Day: (adult male): backstage crew forced to be the son of Prince Frogger. First in diapers. Then in kid clothes. Like Buster Keaton caught in the headlights. No spoken lines.

Eric the Troll: (male) The Keeper of the Bridge that hasn't been built yet and the only way out of the Enchanted Wood.

Panto Cow: (two performers) Fairy Tinkle's mother that she accidentally turned into a cow that wanders throughout the show. The Cow speaks by using a "moo box" toy. One of the actors arms might actually come out so we can see the toy making the noise.

Fairy Queen: (female) Queen Elizabeth lookalike. Fairy Tinkle's mother when not a cow. She appears at the very end of the show to acknowledge the happy ending and to comment that it is her and NVCP 60th anniversary. She can help hand out toy diamond rings. (?)

Santa Claus: It's pretty self-explanatory isn't it? He does have a couple of lines. He shows up at the end of the show to save the day and get rid of the Evil Nasties. He gives gifts to the characters (i.e. giving Fairy Tinkle her new wand) and then hangs out with the kids after the show.

The Evil Nasties: (kids) monsters that Caraboose accidentally drums up to get rid of the princess.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

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Cow Eats Wand

House lights down.

*Offstage there is a FLASH accompanied by a MAGICAL IMPACT SOUND and a scream.
We then hear a "moo" and a COW EATING A WAND SOUND EFFECT.*

FAIRY TINKLE

(offstage) Oh no.

Cow and Storyteller

A COW walks out, stops, turns and stares at the audience. The COW finishes chewing. An arm comes out from under the cow costume holding a "moo box" toy. This is how the cow "talks". The cow moos. Stares at the audience. Moos again.

Enter STORYTELLER.

STORYTELLER

Right. Sorry. Yes. Right. Hello. Right. Hello. Sorry. Yes. Right. Hello. Ah yes. I see what the problem is here. She's a cow. Well, not necessarily a cow. She been turned a cow. She's not a cow. She's just been turned into...I'm going to start again. Let me try that again.

STORY TELLER walks off and comes in again.

STORYTELLER

This is not Sleeping Beauty. This is a cow. This cow was once the Fairy Queen but she was accidentally turned into a cow by her daughter, Fairy Tinkle.

FAIRY TINKLE

(offstage) Why don't you just tell the whole world!

The COW moos.

STORYTELLER CONT.

The Fairy Queen asks that you please turn off all your cell phones or anything that makes noise and please no flash photography. It scares the animals.

The COW nods its head.

The COW exits.

Piddlepot

Enter PIDDLEPOT, in a grandiose way, wearing fuzzy slippers and a crown.

PIDDLEPOT

Helloooo. Saunter-saunter-step. Saunter-twirl-step. I am Sleeping Beauty.

STORYTELLER

Oh no you're not.

PIDDLEPOT

Oh, yes I am.

STORYTELLER

Oh, no you're not.

PIDDLEPOT

Oh, yes I am.

STORYTELLER

Oh, no you're not.

PIDDLEPOT

I must now practice my sleeping scene.

PIDDLEPOT throws her head back and begins to snore.

The STORYTELLER pokes her.

PIDDLEPOT

(still with her eyes closed and head back) Don't interrupt. I'm in character.

RATFINK THE HAND PUPPET appears on PIDDLEPOT.

The STORYTELLER whacks at it - missing.

PIDDLEPOT CONT.

Do that again and I'll whack you so hard you'll be reading your own obituary before you hit the ground.

STORYTELLER

There was a rat!

PIDDLEPOT

He's not a rat. He's my friend. His name is Ratfink. He's my acting coach.

STORYTELLER

Acting coach?

PIDDLEPOT

Yeah. Watch.

RATFINK THE HAND PUPPET does the same sleeping pose that PIDDLEPOT just did.

STORYTELLER

He's very good.

PIDDLEPOT

I know.

STORYTELLER

He's still a rat.

PIDDLEPOT

Aren't they all?

STORYTELLER

And you're not Sleeping Beauty.

PIDDLEPOT

But I got the crown and fuzzy slippers and everything. *(she cries, not very well, to the audience)* Hold it. I think I can do better. What do you think Ratfink?

RATFINK THE HAND PUPPET nods and then demonstrates some crying.

PIDDLEPOT exits practicing her craft.

Fairy Tinkle

FAIRY TINKLE comes running on stage.

FAIRY TINKLE

Dear man in the booth

I wish you well

But where in the heck

Is my fairy harp swell?!

Harp swell sound effect. (This should happen every time Fairy Tinkle enters.)

FAIRY TINKLE CONT.

Good evening all

Good evening you

I must rhyme everything

Fairy Union rules

My name's Fairy Tinkle

And I've lost my wand

A cow it did eat it

And that cow is my mom

So if you see a her

You must do your bit

If you see a cow

You must moo like this

"MOO!"

Now let us practice
So I can see
That aside from eating chips
You've been listening to me

1...2...3...

"MOO!"

That's not bad
I'm quite impressed
But something tells me
That wasn't your best

The COW sticks its head out so the audience can see. FAIRY TINKLE is unaware. Hopefully the audience will moo - with a little help from the STORYTELLER.

FAIRY TINKLE CONT.

All right all ready
All right okay
I can see that you got it
Let's not get carried away

FAIRY TINKLE exits.

Princess Precious Birthday Party

STORYTELLER

Once upon a time there was a King and Queen who had a beautiful baby. Her name was Princess Precious.

CAST and AUDIENCE sing "HAPPY BIRTHDAY".

Happy birthday to you
Happy birthday to you
Happy birthday dear Little Baby Princess Precious
Happy birthday to you

During the song PIDDLEPOT enters dressed in servant's garb and carrying a great big (fake) cake with a STORK CARRYING A BABY on top of it.

PIDDLEPOT

(a tad sad at realizing what role she has) Hello. I am Nanny Piddlepot. Nanny to the new princess. Princess Precious. I'm the one who takes care of her. That's right me. I've been taking care of her ever

since she was in diapers. Granted she was just born but still. And Ratfink, the rat, he left me. Took off like the wind - if the wind was a heartless, inconsiderate, uncaring rat. He was my best friend.

The Fairy Gifts

STORYTELLER

The King and Queen invited every fairy they could find in the whole kingdom. They found seven. Fairy Sparkle, Fairy Flutter, Fairy Maryweather, Fairy Boat, Fairy Terminal, Fairy Nuff and Fairy Tinkle...Fairy Tinkle...

*FAIRY TINKLE comes racing in.
Harp swell.*

FAIRY TINKLE

Don't panic
I am here now
I got a little distracted
Chasing my mother the cow

STORYTELLER

And each fairy gave the new baby princess a gift. Fairy Sparkle she gave beauty.

The baby princess is a hand puppet in a crib.

FAIRY TINKLE

I guess that means
This kid 's a cutie

We hear the sound of cameras snapping.

STORYTELLER

Fairy Flutter she gave wit.

FAIRY TINKLE

I guess that means
She'll be doing stand-up bits

We hear laughter.

STORYTELLER

Fairy Maryweather she gave grace.

FAIRY TINKLE

So this little princess
Won't land on her face

A cartoon slip and fall sound effect.

STORYTELLER

Fairy Boat she gave dance.

FAIRY TINKLE

I guess that means
She'll know how to tap

Tap dancing sound effects. Baby's head bopping up and down.

STORYTELLER

Ferry Terminal she gave song.

FAIRY TINKLE

So she can sing karaoke
All night long

Lionel Richie "All Night Long".

STORYTELLER

And Fairy Nuff she gave the ability of musical instruments.

FAIRY TINKLE

(stumped) Ah, forget about it.

A flute is placed in the crib and astonishing music comes out.

Caraboose Appears

Sudden thunder and lightning and flashing of lights.

The STORYTELLER encourages the audience to "BOO!".

CARABOOSE enters bumping into things and knocking things over. She's not angry. She just can't see very well.

She bums into PIDDLEPOT carrying a (prop) cake sending her spinning off stage.

We hear a crash.

FAIRY TINKLE

Oh dear. The cake!

FAIRY TINKLE runs off stage to help PIDDLEPOT.

QUEEN (STORYTELLER)

Caraboose! We...

CARABOOSE

Not yet.

CARABOOSE produces two large POWDER PUFFS and smashes them together to give the really cheap illusion of arriving in a puff of smoke.

CARABOOSE

Okay.

QUEEN (STORYTELLER)

Caraboose! We thought you were dead.

CARABOOSE

For over fifty years I have been alone in that tower. And not one phone call. Would it kill you to visit? Maybe some tea? You know, I remember when...

RATFINK

(under breath) Focus.

CARABOOSE starts moving toward a TEDDY BEAR.

CARABOOSE CONT.

This must be the lovely child. How blessed you must be. How happy. How beautiful. Don't worry your majesties...

CARABOOSE snatches the TEDDY BEAR thinking it is the Princess.

CARABOOSE CONT.

I'll take good care of her!

CARABOOSE gives an evil laugh. Lightning and thunder.

The STORYTELLER encourages the audience to "BOO!"

She turns to make a dramatic exit.

RATFINK

(under his breath) It's a teddy bear.

CARABOOSE

What?

RATFINK

You're holding a teddy bear.

CARABOOSE

A teddy bear?

RATFINK

A teddy bear.

CARABOOSE CONT.

Not the princess?

RATFINK

Not unless she's furry and filled with stuffing.

CARABOOSE

(attempting to address the King and Queen but facing the wrong way) Um, quick question. You didn't happen to buy your daughter a fur coat and have her stuffed recently did you? *(puts on glasses)* No? I didn't think so. You know, this reminds me...

Fairy Tinkle and Caraboose

The COW pokes her head out.

The audience moos.

FAIRY TINKLE runs on. Harp swell.

FAIRY TINKLE

Where? Where?

CARABOOSE

Fairy Tinkle. I'd know that harp swell anywhere.

FAIRY TINKLE

Hello Caraboose.

CARABOOSE

It's been a long time. How's your mother?

FAIRY TINKLE

Udderly wonderful.

CARABOOSE

You're not speaking in rhyme. Oh, how delicious. How delightful. How delectable. Could it be? You've lost your wand.

FAIRY TINKLE

No I haven't

No you are wrong

It's out for repair

It should be back here any day now

FAIRY TINKLE cringes at her inability to rhyme.

CARABOOSE

The ability to rhyme is always the first to go. You know I remember when...

RATFINK offers a redirection cough.

CARABOOSE

Soon you will lose all your fairy powers and then nothing will stand in my way.

Laughter, lightning, thunder.

"BOO!"

FAIRY TINKLE

You're way of what?

CARABOOSE is stumped by this.

RATFINK

(under his breath) Ruling the world.

CARABOOSE

Are you sure? That sounds like an awful lot of work. Did I ever tell you of the time...

RATFINK

(under breath) Focus.

CARABOOSE

But first I must give my gift to little Princess Precious. A very special gift.

Laugh, lightning, thunder.

"BOO!"

CARABOOSE CONT.

(receiving the boos as if she were getting a standing ovation) Please. Stop. You are too kind. I am not deserving. Thank you. Thank you. Alright! Enough!

The STORYTELLER gets the audience to shut up.

CARABOOSE CONT.

Princess Precious, for your birthday I give you... *(saying it as if it's the worst thing in the world)* beauty.

She lets out an evil laugh followed by lightning and thunder.

"BOO!"

FAIRY TINKLE

Um...she already has that.

CARABOOSE

Then I give her wit.

Laugh, lightning and thunder.

"BOO!"

FAIRY TINKLE

Has it.

CARABOOSE

You're kidding me. Grace?

FAIRY TINKLE

Has it.

CARABOOSE

Dance?

FAIRY TINKLE

Has it.

CARABOOSE

Song?

FAIRY TINKLE

Has it.

CARABOOSE

The ability to play musical instruments?

FAIRY TINKLE

Has it.

CARABOOSE

Who gave her that one?

FAIRY TINKLE

Fairy Nuff.

CARABOOSE

Fairy Nuff. I should have known. Has anyone given her "she will prick her hand on a spindle and die" yet?

FAIRY TINKLE

Of course not. What a horrible gift.

STORYTELLER

And so it came to pass, Caraboose cast a spell that Princess Precious would die when she pricked her hand on the spindle of a spinning wheel.

*FAIRY TINKLE glares at the STORYTELLER.
He gestures "it's in the book".*