



PANTO MURDERS

The Musical

STAGING THE PRODUCTION

BY

Linda Kirby

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PANTO MURDERS SYNOPSIS

The rungs of Jack's ladder have been cut and he has plunged to his death from the beanstalk. Peter Pan has been eaten by a real crocodile. Aladdin's been blown up by his Genie's Lamp. Everyone wonders who's next on the Panto Murderer's hit list?

Chief Superintendent Snoop wants a quick result, his job is on the line. He cancels all pantomimes across London.

Maxine Bucks, Theatre Owner, is tired of the Police coming up with nothing and hires her own detectives Amena Ireland and Sam Cobb. She books the Panto teams into a big hotel where they can be guarded until the mystery is solved. That night, Sleeping Beauty is poisoned and everyone is under suspicion.

Whilst the Police continue to follow false leads, the two clever detectives manage to solve the crimes. They discover that Christine, one of the contract cleaners, is responsible for the murders. They learn that she had applied for many leading roles but was never successful. They discover that in her bitterness and jealousy she has disposed of her rivals.

Christine uses her moment of infamy to declare that she was born to be a star.

Thanks to young detectives, the Pantomime Season is able to start again.

PANTO MURDERS – CHARACTER PARTS

SPEAKING PARTS	Number of words	Scenes they appear in	Group or solo songs
<u>Police Team</u>			
Chief Superintendent Snoop	345	2,7 & 8	Crime Free
Sergeant Sniffer	126	2,7 & 8	
Police Secretary	52	2 & 8	
Police officer	42	7 & 8	
6 police officers	38	2 & 8	
<u>Theatre Team</u>			
Maxine Bucks	583	2,3,4,7 & 8	Our world is falling apart
Paul	240	3,4,7 & 8	
Louise	167	3,4,7& 8	
<u>Detectives</u>			
Amena Ireland	403	4,5,7& 8	The moment I first set eyes on you
Sam Cobb	498	4,5,7& 8	
<u>Pantomime Cast</u>			
Aladdin	69	1	
Widow Twanky	177	1,5,6 &	
Sleeping Beauty	103	5, 6 & 8	I can't sleep
Genie	44	5 & 8	
Tinkerbell	91	5 & 8	
Jack's mum	72	5 & 8	
Wendy	79	5 & 8	
Prince Charming	112	5,6,7 & 8	
Captain Hook	65	5 & 8	
Cinderella	66	5,6 & 8	
Evil Vizier	66	5,6 & 8	
Snow White	51	5 & 8	
Bad Fairy	84	5 & 8	
Newspaper person	24	2, 7	
<u>Cleaners</u>			
Christine – The Cleaner	199	5,6 & 8	I was born to be a star
Cleaners		5	

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION. COSTUMES AND MAKE-UP

Character	Description
Police Team	
Chief Superintendent Snoop, Sgt Sniffer, the Police Secretary & 6 officers	Anxious police Chief. Doesn't have enough resources to do the job.
Theatre Team	
Maxine Bucks	Powerful Theatre Owner. Wants a quick result. Won't take "no" for an answer.
Paul	Effeminate Manager , amusing and very emotional
Louise	Secretary – efficient and businesslike.
Detectives	
Amena Ireland & Sam Cobb	Young detectives who've worked together before. They are attracted to one another but not going out together. Very painstaking in their work. Get results.
Pantomime Cast Aladdin ,Widow Twanky Genie,Tinkerbell Jack's mum,Wendy Prince Charming Captain Hook,Cinderella Evil Vizier,Snow White & the Bad Fairy	A whole host of Pantomime characters who are anxious their friends' murders. Frightened of becoming a victim, and concerned about being accused.
Sleeping Beauty	Very anxious, can't sleep. Is murdered when the Panto folk stay at the hotel.
Cleaners	
Christine – The Cleaner	Masquerades as a cleaner but is the murderer. Jealous actress who never got the leading role. Very bitter. Kills off the leads, one by one.
Cleaners	Non speaking parts. They clean the hotel during the play.
Others	
Newspaper person	Gives the latest update on the murder situation.

Costumes :

Actors: Police – Navy blue tops and trousers, helmets.

Panto Characters : Traditional panto costumes. Theatre Team - Bold coloured outfits

Young detectives – Smart suits, or Matching Sweatshirts with Panto Murder Experts

Logo+ Briefcases. Cleaners – Overalls & Rubber gloves. Christine – flamboyant outfit for last scene + wig.

Choir: Black or white tee shirts with WHO DUNNIT? Badges. ? – Question Mark head bands.

Make-up: Glittery faces for Panto folk. Light Make-up for women. Moustaches for the men.

Check that children are not allergic to make-up!

AUDITIONS

You could use the excerpt below or choose your own selection.

Read the story to them first. Give them a couple of chances to read through the lines. For those who cannot read well, give them a simple line to repeat so that they can feel included.

Pick those children whose voices can be heard at the back of the hall for your speaking parts.

Sam: No finger prints whatsoever at any of the crime scenes.

Amena: Whoever did it was a clean operator. They've covering their tracks well.

Sam: All the crimes are different. Plunging from a ladder, eaten by a crocodile and a blowing up.

Amena: Yes, but it feels like the same person is responsible for all of them, doesn't it? I know it's a gut reaction, but that's how I feel. Do you agree?

SONGS and MUSIC

PHOTOCOPIABLE SONG SHEET

CD WITH:

- SONG VOCALS FOR PRACTICE
- SONG BACKING TRACKS FOR ACTUAL PERFORMANCE
- LINK-UP MUSIC
- SOUND EFFECTS

MUSICAL SCORE

SONGS in order of appearance :

Crime Free The Police Team

Our world is falling apart – Louise, Maxine and Paul

Who Durnit? – Pantomime Cast

I can't sleep – Sleeping Beauty

The moment that I first set eyes on you. – Amena and Sam

I was born to be a star – Christine, the Murderer

Finale : Goodbye

Songs can be solos or backed by choir.

All stage performers that are singing need to have a simple routine for each song so that they don't look wooden

SOUND EFFECTS

Explosion.

Telephone ringing twice

Bathwater running

Door opens, footsteps, door closes.

DANCE

Crime Free - Police line up in two rows
They follow a simple routine around the lyrics.

Our world is falling apart - Guitars for the three of them.
Simple air guitar movements.

Who Dunit? - Great one for teaming up the entire Panto Cast
Again following the lyrics in a synchronised way.

I can't sleep - Nice jazzy swing to this. Flowing dress, lots of twists and twirling. Alternatively, simple tap dancing steps.

The moment that I first set eyes on you. Simple ballroom style dance.

I was born to be a star - backing group doing a simple routine would look good.

Goodbye - Waving as this is the finale.

Songs can be solos or backed by choir.
All stage performers that are singing need to have a simple routine for each song so that they don't look wooden.

SCENERY and PROPS

Suggested backdrop: Picture of the Palace Hotel foyer.

Scene One Aladdin's bedroom

Basket of washing. Bed with covers and pillow – centre stage.. Chair with Aladdin's tunic and hat. Large box – off stage. Body parts to be thrown on after the explosion.

Scene Two: Chief Superintendent's office

Chair. Desk with pad of paper, pen and telephone.

Scene Three: Producer's office

Desk add cloth and vase. Couch. Small coffee table for telephone and directories. Bottle of wine and three glasses.

Scene Four - Producer's Office

Tray with tea things. Coffee table. Couch. Two extra chairs.

Scene Five - Foyer of the Palace Hotel

Couch – with different cover over it. Coffee table. Reception desk. Tray with cafetier, cups and sandwiches. Plants and watering can

Scene Six Sleeping Beauty's room

Bed with covers and pillows. Small bedside cabinet & lamp. Telephone

Scene Seven Foyer of The Palace Hotel.

Couch, Table, Reception desk

Scene Eight The Hotel Foyer

Couch, table, reception desk

Cleaner's mop & rubber gloves

Police handcuffs

Cleaner's fur coat, heeled shoes, jewels & handbag