

Jack and the Beanstalk Audition Notes

By Simon Burne

Characters

Ringmaster Flash – sidekick to Grottini, a music hall master of ceremonies

The Great Grottini – circus owner and baddie

Christine – the magic butterfly

Betty Fallsdown – the Dame and owner of the Nobucks Coffee Shop

Trippers

Nora Legoff – a very old tripper

Jack Fallsdown – Betty's son

Jill Tumblin – café assistant and Jack's friend

Daisy the cow

Rob Swindle – a thief hired by Grottini

Nick Run – his accomplice

Animals and acrobats

Sage Nunion – guardian of the beanstalk

Guru Tootall – guardian of the beanstalk

Giant's servants

Giant's voice

Minnie Biggun

The Plot

This is a panto packed full of jokes and slapstick, with a lot of ensemble work and audience participation as well as great characters. It also has original songs (with sheet music), but the director may choose to replace them with popular songs instead.

The Great Grottini, supported by his sidekick Ringmaster Flash, owns the greatest circus in the world. He collects wonderful animals from all over the world and he has heard about Daisy the Cow, who has magical properties, and he is determined to own her. Christine Ayliss (Chris Ayliss) is a magic butterfly who escaped Grottini's terrible circus and she is determined to thwart his plans.

Betty Fallsdown is the owner of the Nobucks Coffee Shop, and she is broke. Her son Jack and the waitress Gill Tumblin help her out. They're all completely useless. Daisy has stopped producing milk (laying eggs and tables instead) and they decide that they'll have to take her to market. Grottini tries to buy the cow, but Betty refuses.

Rob Swindle and Nick Steal are two thieves hired by Grottini to steal Daisy. They try to trick Betty into giving them Daisy by dressing up as gasmen. They fail, so they dress up as a bull to lure Daisy away with love. After a romantic love dance between Daisy and the bull, their costume falls apart and they flee.

Jack and Gill are invited to Grottini's circus and they fall in love with it and decide to run away to the circus. Lots of business but in the end they sell Daisy to Grottini for a bagful of beans. Grottini thinks he's given Jack dud beans but Rob and Nick gave him real magic beans by mistake. Grottini gives chase to Jack and Gill. Betty is furious that Daisy has been sold for nothing and throws away the beans. Grottini can't find them and Christine casts a spell to make them grow.

In the morning Jack and Gill see the beanstalk climbing up to the sky. They decide to climb it, pursued by Betty. They reach the top, which is guarded by Guru Tootall and Sage Nunion, two sages. They have to answer silly riddles to get past them. At the castle, they discover servants ruled over by a tyrannical giant. They discover that the giant is in fact Minnie Biggun, a very small person who was banished to the castle by Grottini for trying to set all the animals free.

Grottini and the two thieves make it to the top of the beanstalk. After more negotiations with Guru and Sage, they make it to the castle. The audience all become the giant and frighten Rob, Nick and Grottini. Jack and Gill lock Grottini up and free all the animals. Betty turns the beanstalk into a theme park Beanstalk World and it makes their fortune.

The audition

There will be a read through on Saturday June 15 at 10 am and auditions will be on Saturday July 6 and 13, also at 10 am. We'll be auditioning in a slightly different way than usual. I want you all to come with a joke or story to tell to everyone in the character of the part you'd like to audition for. There will also be some jokes and stories available on the day if you can't think of one. We'll also try out your singing – with energy and volume being as important as note perfection for most parts! If you have a song you want to sing, let us know in advance please.

Any more information, please contact me, Simon Burne, on 07908 033885 or simonburne@ntlworld.com.

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