

Spotlight Youth Productions
Present

Dick Whittington

A pantomime adventure
for all the family



Written for Spotlight by Steve Groves

Forest Arts Centre

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www.spotlite.co.uk

Dick Whittington

Act 1

Prologue – A London Street

01. Something better Change (Full Company)

Don't you like the way I move when you see me?

Don't you like the things that I say?

Don't you like the way I seem to enjoy it?

When you shout things but I don't care

Something's happening and it's happening right now

You're too blind to see it

Something's happening and it's happening right now

Ain't got time to wait

I said something better change

I said something better change

I said something better change

I said something better change

Don't you like the way I dance?

Does it bug you?

Don't you like the cut of my clothes?

Don't you like the way I seem to enjoy it?

Stick my fingers right up your nose

Something's happening and it's happening right now

You're too blind to see it

Something's happening and it's happening right now

Ain't got time to wait

I said something better change

I said something better change

I said something better change

I said something better change

(Instrumental)

I said something better change

I said something better change

I said something better change

I said something better change

Change!

Scene I – The Road to London

(All leave except Dick)

Dick Hello everybody, my name's Richard Whittington. Everybody calls me Dick and just like the words of that song, I need a change. I hear tell that the Streets of London are paved with gold, so I'm going there to seek my fortune. It shouldn't be that difficult. Should it? *(Leaves SR)*

King Rat *(enter SL)* I'm a King and a Rat. King Rat. Put 'em together and what have you got? K... I... N... G... space R... A... T. Anagrams Rank Git, Tank Rig and Gin Kart. I hate Dick Whittington, and I haven't met him yet, but I hate him. I also hate you *(points at audience)*. I hate you *(points)*. But most of all I hate you *(point)*. I hate you all. I'm the Baddie in all this and it's your job to boo me. Go on. See what you can do *(wait)* Is that the best you can do? I've heard a bunch of grannies boo better. I'm off to London, to meet up with my gang, so we can cause some mischief and mayhem. Us rats are everywhere. *(Leaves SL)*

Dick Whittington

Chris *(Enter SR)* Hello boys and girls, Ladies and Gents *(wait)*. I said hello boys and girls, Ladies and Gents *(wait)*. *(Repeat and wait)* I'm not moving till I get a better response than that. If you can boo that loud for King Rat, you can certainly do better for a goodie, and that's me. *(Repeat & wait)* Right, every time I come onto stage I'll say "Hello boys and girls, Ladies and Gents" and I want you to shout out, as loud as you can, "Hello Chris". Can we try that? Now can we try it with everyone shouting? Am I facing the right way? Shall we try it again? Well that'll have to do for now. Now, I want you to put out your hands, come on, put out your hands. Everybody. Now hold my hand as we follow Dick on his travels to London. I'm sort of like a Guardian Angel. Well, I'm a Guardian Cat. I look after people and make sure they don't get into trouble and if they do, I try and help them out of it. It doesn't always work of course. I mean, where Dick gets this idea London's streets are paved with Gold... I ask you! That's like believing there's really a banker on the end of the phone in 'Deal or No Deal'. Come on, we all know it's really Noel pretending and he knows what's in the box before the start. Here comes Dick Whittington, my latest project.

(Rhyme)

Dick is on his way to London
Ignoring what his mama told him
He thinks the streets are paved with gold
At least that's what he's been told
I do so hate to put him right
But most of the streets are full of...
...litter and rubbish and not paved with gold at all

Dick *(Enter SL)* Hello, you're a fine looking cat. My name's Richard— *(interrupted)*

Chris *(Interrupting)* Whittington. *(aside)* It's on his luggage label. Everybody calls him Dick.

Dick *(continues)* —Whittington. Everybody calls me Dick. That's good... How did you know that? You must be a really clever cat. I'm on my way to London, *(points SR)* to seek my fortune. Did you know the streets there are paved with Gold?

Chris It's worse than I thought... London is that way *(Points SL)*. You're going the wrong way and the streets are paved with what? I've got to go there myself, do you mind if I tag along with you? My name's Chris.

Dick Well Chris, If you're sure you can keep up with me, both physically and intellectually, then you're welcome to join me. But I have to warn you, once we get there; it's every man for himself. Or every cat, as it were. I'm not sharing my wealth and fortune with you.

Chris That's okay; I think I'll be able to survive without your untold riches. *(Aside)* It really is much worse than I feared. Dim, distracted, gullible and naïve or what...

2. I'm on my way (Chris & Dick)

Dick Whittington

I'm on my way from misery to happiness
today
I'm on my way from misery to happiness
today
I'm on my way to what I want from this
world
And years from now you'll make it to the
next world
And everything that you receive up yonder
Is what you gave to me the day I
wandered

I took a right, I took a right turning
yesterday
I took a right, I took a right turning
yesterday
I took the road that brought me to your
home town
I took the bus to streets that I could walk
down
I walked the streets to find the one I'd
looked for
I climbed the stair that led me to your
front door

And now that I don't want for anything
I'd have Al Jolson sing I'm sitting on top of
the world

I'll do my best, I'll do my best to do the
best I can
I'll do my best, I'll do my best to do the
best I can
To keep my feet from jumping from the
ground dear
To keep my heart from jumping through
my mouth dear

(They all exit SL, for London)

King Rat *(Enters SR)* I hate him, and I still haven't met him. I hate you *(points)*. I hate you *(points)*. But most of all I hate you *(point)*. I hate you all. I particularly hate cats. *(Music. Our tune* It all started when I was young, I had a cat who was my best friend then one day I introduced him to my Mom and Dad... and he ate them! *(music stops)* That's why I hate cats, so if you see any cats be sure to tell me won't you. I'm King rat remember, and this is my delightful, I say it again, my delightful wife, Mrs Rat

To keep the past, the past and not the
present
To try and learn when you teach me a
lesson

And now that I don't want for anything
I'd have Al Jolson sing I'm sitting on top of
the world

I'm on my way from misery to happiness
today
I'm on my way from misery to happiness
today
I'm on my way to what I want from this
world
And years from now you'll make it to the
next world
And everything that you receive up yonder
Is what you gave to me the day I
wandered

I'm on my way to what I want from this
world
And years from now you'll make it to the
next world
And everything that you receive up yonder
Is what you gave to me the day I
wandered

I'm on my way
I'm on my way
I'm on my way
I'm on my way
I'm on my way
I'm on my way

Dick Whittington

- Mrs Rat Hello boys and girls, Oh I do like little boys and girls but I couldn't eat a whole one. Let me hear you all boo King rat and his gang. Now let me hear you hiss.... Now you're all covered in spit. We'm the baddies in all this and it's our job to stop everyone, including you lot, from having a good time. Us rats are everywhere, causing problems and if I were you I wouldn't eat anything with raisins in, if you know what I mean (taps nose)? Of all the things I hate though, I hate my husband most of all. He is the kind of man you'd use as a blueprint to build an idiot...
- King Rat Darling, how charming. *(to audience)* Her mind is so open her thoughts pass straight through it... To what do I owe this unexpected but nevertheless truly delightful and exciting interruption? Hold the front page. There's a headline waiting to get out...
- Mrs Rat My dearest, if ignorance is bliss you must be the happiest person alive. *(to audience)* If his brains were dynamite he wouldn't have enough to blow his hat off.... I came to see if you are ready to go back to London. I'm bored with creating mayhem in these little insignificant places, like Walsall and Brownhills...
- King Rat We're on our way back now, daaarliing. Our work here is done.
- Billy Rat Did you hear that folks? Back to London. The 'smoke', the 'big city', 'Sarrffff'. Maybe we can start to earn a decent, honest living. We seem to work so hard at cheating and thieving, without success. Perhaps if we put that much effort into honest, decent work, we'd be rich and... honest... and decent...
- Rob Don't let the boss hear you say that, he'll blow his stack. He's developed a reputation as a mean despicable—
- Bob —Rooting tooting, gas guzzling, kiddie eating, wife beating son of the biggest meanest rat that ever lived.
- Billy In English... King Rat is not a very pleasant character. I was just thinking though, we never seem to get anywhere with nasty... Nasty don't work! We seem to have a massive failure rate. We're not rich! In fact we're not even comfortable. We are poor! That's P...O....O...R.
- Bob No, but we'm 'appy. That's A...P...P...Y. Look at them smiles. *(all rats force smiles)* See... That's 'appy, as 'appy as a kid at Christmas with a bag of toys as 'appy as—
- Rob —A maccie eating 24/7 double egg mac whatsits with large fries an a large Banana milk whatnot for two quid sort of 'appy.
- Billy Again in English, despite the trauma of a criminal life, they're happy... With a capital aitch. Which goes to show it is not too difficult to please most of the people, most of the time. Give them rubbish fast food, drain their brains of any useful thoughts and feed them a diet of reality style TV such as Big Brother, I'm a celebrity, Love Island and X factor.

Dick Whittington

King Rat Gather round my trusty band. Our next target is that ridiculous Dick Whittington and his rather strange cat friend. They are on their way to London and we're going to be there to give them a welcome they won't forget in a hurry. *(all laugh manically)*

3. London Calling (Rats)

London calling to the faraway towns
Now war is declared-and battle come
down
London calling to the underworld
Come out of the cupboard, you boys and
girls
London calling, now don't look at us
phoney beatlemania has bitten the dust
London calling, see we ain't got no swing
'cept for the ring of that truncheon thing

The ice age is coming, the sun is zooming
in
meltdown expected, the wheat is growing
thin
engines stopped running, but i have no
fear
London is drowning-and I, I live by the
river

London calling to the imitation zone
Forget it, brother, you can go it alone
London calling to the zombies of death
Quit holding out-and draw another breath

(They all exit SL)

Scene II – A London Street

Chris Hello boys and girls, Ladies and Gents. *(wait)* So, I'm looking after Dick Whittington, who is having a rest at the moment, preparing for the big moment when he enters 'The Big City', and I've come into London to meet some of my cat mates to see if they will come and help me. I know that King Rat will have something nasty up his sleeve, apart from his arm and a snotty hankie, and I just need to make sure we're ready for it.

Ginger Hi Chris, and what brings you to this neck of the woods.

Chris My latest project, Dick Whittington, he's on his way in to London, to 'seek his

London calling-and i don't wanna shout
But while we were talking-i saw you
nodding out
London calling, see we ain't got no highs
Except for that one with the yellowy eyes

The ice age is coming, the sun is zooming
in
engines stopped running, the wheat is
growing thin
a nuclear error, but i have no fear
London is drowning-and I, I live by the
river

Now get this
London calling, yeah, i was there, too
An' you know what they said? well, some
of it was true!
London calling at the top of the dial
and after all this, won't you give me a
smile?

I never felt so much a' like

Dick Whittington

fortune’.

Garfield Another fool that’s fallen for ‘streets paved with gold’ rubbish. They say there’s one born every minute.

Tucker You mean to say they ain’t paved with gold! No one ever told me.

Nigella Well, if they were paved with food, you’d know about that quick enough. You’re too busy looking in bins to see the Streets are very clearly not paved with gold.

Ginger So what’s with this Dick Whittington character? What’s his purrrrproblem?

Chris Do you want it alphabetical, numerical or just in order of importance? He hasn’t got a clue... and I fear King Rat and his not so merry band will have a nasty surprise for him. They seem to have taken a particular dislike to him.

Ginger Yes, I understand what you are saying. So what do we puuurrprose to do about it?

Tucker We could catch the rats and eat them. I’m feeling a bit peckish. A nice Rat and Kidney pie should be just right.

Garfield How about a rat-a-touille, get it, rat-a-touille (*laughs hysterically... No one else does*)

Nigella Well if you ask me?

Garfield Nobody did!

Nigella If you ask me, they would never be daft enough to walk straight into a trap? We’ve got to be cunning, trick them, tempt them, lure them, catch them and reel them in like a patient fisherman, using bait and guile to sort them out.

Ginger Yes, they’re becoming tiresome. We need to put them in their place and teach them a lesson they won’t forget in a hurry. A purrrrrmanent sort of thing.

Tucker Like I said, let’s eat ‘em.

Nigella That is not the answer to all problems. Eat them and they’ll be replaced by even more rats, who are more angry and more bitter and who’ll be even harder to sort out. Better the devil, or rat, you know.

Garfield Just so long as we don’t get our hands dirty in the process. Can’t be having all those dirty Rats, messing up my clothes, hands and so on... You Dirty Rat...

Ginger We’ll have to come up with a plan to make sure they stop their games once and for all.

Chris That’s great; I knew I could count on you....

Dick Whittington

(RHYME)

The rats cunning plot needs to end
And a clear message we must send
Leave Dick alone, don't cross the line
And we will get along just fine
But if you persist we have a cunning plan....er
To make you behave in a proper mann...er....

4. Jellicle Cats (Cats)

Are you blind when you're born? Can you
see in the dark?
Would you look at a king? Would you sit
on his throne?
Can you say of your bite that it's worse
than your bark?
Are you cock of the walk when you're
walking alone?

Because jellicles are and jellicles do
Jellicles do and jellicles would
Jellicles would and jellicles can
Jellicles can and Jellicles do

When you fall on your head, do you land
on your feet?
Are you tense when you sense there's a
storm in the air?
Can you find your way blind when you're
lost in the street?
Do you know how to go to the heavy side
layer?

Because jellicles can and jellicles do
Jellicles do and jellicles can
Jellicles can and jellicles do
Jellicles do and jellicles can
Jellicles can and jellicles do

Can you ride on a broomstick to places far
distant?
Familiar with candle, with book, and with
bell?
Were you Whittington's friend? The Pied
Piper's assistant?
Have you been an alumnus of heaven and
hell?

Are you mean like a minx? Are you lean
like a lynx?
Are you keen to be seen when you're
smelling a rat?
Were you there when the pharaohs
commissioned the Sphinx?
If you were and you are, you're a Jellicle
cat

Jellicle songs for jellicle cats
Jellicle songs for jellicle cats
Jellicle songs for jellicle cats
Jellicle songs for jellicle cats
Jellicle songs for jellicle cats

We can dive through the air, like a flying
trapeze
We can turn double somersaults, bounce
on a tyre
We can run up a wall, we can swing
through the trees
We can balance on bars, we can walk on a
wire

Jellicles can and jellicles do
Jellicles can and jellicles do
Jellicles can and jellicles do
Jellicles can and jellicles do
Jellicle songs for jellicle cats
Jellicle songs for jellicle cats
Jellicle songs for jellicle cats
Jellicle songs for jellicle cats

Can you sing at the same time in more
than one key?
Duets by Rossini and waltzes by Strauss?
And can you (as cats do) begin with a 'C'?

Dick Whittington

That always triumphantly brings down the house?

Jellicle cats are queen of the nights
Singing at astronomical heights
Handling pieces from the 'Messiah'
Hallelujah, angelical Choir

Jellicle cats are queen of the nights
Singing at astronomical heights
Handling pieces from the 'Messiah'
Hallelujah, angelical Choir

(They all exit SL)

Dick *(From SR)* Where's that darned cat got to? Here I am on my own in the big City and I haven't found any gold on the streets yet.

King Rat *(From SR to boos etc....)* Shut up you lot. I could have him now, right now, and your little itzy bitzy witzzy panto would be over. And all you little kiddy widdies would have to go home. Now that would be a shame. Boo Hoo ... *(boos)* I hate you all, and I'm gonna make you sit through another hour of this. That's how much I hate you. Hello there me fellow me lad. You look lost... can I help?

Dick Oh, hello, my name's Richard.

King Rat You can cut the formalities. You're Dick... Dick Whittington.

Dick How'd you know that? There are some really clever people around aren't there.

King Rat *(Aside)* I don't believe it. It's on his luggage. I've come to warn you to be on your lookout. I'm gonna have you. And the best bit is, you won't know when or how. So be alert! And not a very bright lert at that. *(leaves SL)*

Dick What can he mean? "Have me"... It must be one of those quaint cockney things, 'slyming rang' or whatever. *(Alice enters)* Hello, things are looking up... She's not the best looking thing ever, but beggars can't be choosers. Hello my name's—

Alice -- Dick Whittington.

Dick How do they do that?

Alice *(Points to luggage and stage whispers)* It's on his luggage label. *(She looks into his eyes and music is heard)* Hello Dick, my name's Alice Fitzwarren. My father is the famous Alderman Fitzwarren, a very rich and successful man, and the Lord Mayor of London. He made his fortune sailing the World and bringing back all sorts of exotic goods to sell in his emporium.

Dick *(He looks into her eyes and music is heard)* Hello Alice. I've come to London to make my fortune. The streets are paved with Gold and I've come to strip them bare.

Alice Yet another fool who's fallen for that one. Like lambs to the slaughter and in the meantime Dick, while you're trying to find these gold-laden streets, how are you going to live? Where are you going to sleep?

Dick Whittington

Dick Something'll turn up, I hadn't thought that far forward. Streets, gold, fortune, there doesn't seem to be much else to worry about.

Alice How about streets, robbers, rats, skint, stony broke, without a penny, no food, starving, nowhere to sleep. There's a bit there to be worrying about...

Dick I prefer street, gold, fortune

Alice In your dreams. Look, my Father is always on the lookout for staff to work in his emporium and there is sleeping accommodation with the job. The pay's not great but it keeps you off those golden paving slabs.

Dick I was waiting for my very good friend Chris the Cat to come back, but in the meantime, there's no harm in looking is there. Are you far from here?

Alice No, it's just over there.

5. Our House (Fitzwarrens and Dick)

Father wears his Sunday best
Cook is tired she needs a rest
The staff are playing up downstairs
Idle Jack sighs in his sleep
The Butler's got a date to keep
He can't hang around

Our house, in the middle of our street,
Our house, in the middle of our—

Our house it has a crowd
There's always something happening
And it's usually quite loud
Our Dad he's so house-proud
Nothing ever slows him down
And a mess is not allowed

Our house, in the middle of our street
Our house, in the middle of our—
Our house, in the middle of our street
Our house, in the middle of our—

Father gets up late for work
Alice has to iron his shirt
Then she sends the kids to school
Sees them off with a small kiss
She's the one they're going to miss

In lots of ways

Music Interlude

Our house, in the middle of our street
Our house, in the middle of our—

I remember way back then when
everything was true and when
We would have such a very good time
such a fine time
Such a happy time
And I remember how we'd play simply
waste the day away
Then we'd say nothing would come
between us, two dreamers

Father wears his Sunday best
Cook is tired she needs a rest
The staff are playing up downstairs
Idle Jack sighs in his sleep
The Butler's got a date to keep
He can't hang around

Our house, in the middle of our street
Our house, in the middle of our street
Our house, in the middle of our street

Dick Whittington

Our house, in the middle of our—
Our house, was our castle and our keep
Our house, in the middle of our street

Our house, that was where we used to
sleep
Our house, in the middle of our street
Our house, in the middle of our street

(All exit except Dick, Alice and Alderman Fitzwarren still in the street)

Alice Dick, allow me to introduce my father, Alderman Fitzwarren.

Ald Fitzw I'm the famous Alderman Fitzwarren, a very rich and successful man and the Lord Mayor of London. I made my fortune sailing the world and bringing back all sorts of exotic goods to sell in my emporium.

Dick *(Little Britain)* Yeah, I know. *(Aside)* Aaaahhhh so, an emporium is a sort of shop. Is that all, such a grand word for a... shop.

Alice Father this is Dick Whittington, he's here in London seeking his fortune from our streets of Gold.

Ald Fitzw Another one that fell for that old story. How do you do Dick?

Dick How do I do what?

Alice Have you got a job for Dick in your emporium father? He's hard working, honest, trusted, and strangely attractive.

Ald Fitzw Do you have any qualifications young man?

Dick No

Ald Fitzw Any experience?

Dick No

Ald Fitzw Good, you can start right away. *(Dick and Alice leave ...SR)* It's good to see a smile on her face. Ever since we lost her mother, my wife, we've both been a bit lonely... I said we've both been a bit lonely *(wait for audience)* ... More lonely than that. You know boys and girls, if you shout out an item, I bet that whatever you shout out, I sell in my shop, no matter how expensive or exclusive, anything at all... Just shout it out. *(wait for audience..)* Yeah, I've got them. And them. And some of them. *(etc...)* Any more? *(Etc...)* I went to Turkey, and got some turkeys. I got some ostrich in Austria, some sea shells in the Seychelles, some sweets from Switzerland, a veranda in Rwanda, and in Russia I got a Brush...ia *(Cook enters from SR)* Ah, this is Eileen, my cook. A true and trusty servant, she's looked after me ever since my wife errmmmm, well.

Eileen Mr Fitzwarren, all alone and feeling sorry for himself. I'll cheer him up with my

Dick Whittington

spotted dick.... and custard... That's his favourite, lots of raisins....Mr F, dinner will be ready in a little while, make sure you get inside and get yourself ready, and don't forget to wash your hands.

Ald Fitzw OK Eileen. I don't know what I'd do without her, she's a treasure (*leaves SR*)

Idle Jack (*From SL*) Yeah, she's got a sunken chest and she wants burying. Hello Cook, what's for dinner today?

Eileen Idle Jack. Idle by name, Idle by nature. Don't think that just because you work in the Alderman's emporium you can take advantage of me! You'll get what all the servants get... the leftovers! (*She leaves SR*)

Idle Jack (*Yawns*) I'm not Idle. I'm not. I'm thinking of changing my name to Attention Deficit Disorder Jack. That's one for the moms and dads. (*Yawns*) If I had any energy, or the inclination, I could really fall out with her, but she has the Alderman's ear. She keeps it in a little jar by her bedside.... No, she gets to speak to him and he listens to her. He hasn't got a clue who I am. I work, if you can call it that, in his emporium, that's a shop to you and me and he pays me a pittance. Oh, and me food... and a bed... They call it board. I'm bored... rigid... If I had any energy I'd make more effort with his daughter, Alice. She loves me, she really does. She has funny ways of showing it, but she does love me. (*Yawns and leaves SR*)

King Rat (*From SL*) I ain't forgot you lot, you know. I still hate you... and you... But at the moment, I hate Dick most of all. Talk of the devil (*Dick enters from SR*)

Dick This has all happened so quickly, it's all a bit much for a poor country boy to take in. The big City... There's no gold on the streets, it's all a big con and it's a bit daunting. I'm not sure I made the right decision... coming here... all on my own... I said... all on my own... with nobody else...

King Rat Remember me, Dick? I'm still here and still thinking how I'm gonna have you. Just you keep watching your back sunshine. (*Leaves SL*)

Alice (*From offstage*) Dick... How many sugars do you take in tea, Dick?

Dick Just the one Alice, thank you. I don't think there's enough sugar in the world to sweeten up this place. No gold on the streets, having to work in a shop with that lazy good for nothing Idle Jack, and being threatened in every scene by King Rat. Will you tell me if you see King Rat boys and girls? I don't really want to see him again (*King Rat walks across stage... Dick misses him...goes into "Oh no he's not" "oh yes he is".... King Rat does second 'cross'*) I'm not certain I'm cut out for these London streets.

6. Mama told me not to come (Dick and ensemble)

Want some whiskey in your water?

Sugar in your tea?

Dick Whittington

What's all these crazy questions they're
askin' me?
This is the craziest place that could ever be
Don't turn on the lights 'cause I don't
wanna see

Mama told me not to come
Mama told me not to come
She said "That ain't the way to have fun,
no" uh uh

Open up the window, let some air into the
room
I think I'm almost chokin' from the smell of
stale perfume
And that cigarette you're smokin' 'bout
scare me half to death
Open up the window sucker, let me catch
my breath

Mama told me not to come
Mama told me not to come
"That ain't the way to have fun, son"
"That ain't the way to have fun, son"

The radio is blastin', someone's knockin' at
a door
I'm lookin' at an old man - he just passed
out on the floor

I've seen so many things I ain't never seen
before
Don't know what it is - I don't wanna see
no more

Mama told me not to come
Mama told me not to come
She said "That ain't the way to have fun,
son"
"That ain't the way to have fun, son"

Mama told me, mama told me
Mama told me, mama told me
Mama told me not to come (Mama told
me not to come)
"That ain't the way to have fun, no"
"That ain't the way to have fun, son"
"That ain't the way to have fun, no"
"That ain't the way to have fun, son"
(listen to me)

Mama told me, mama told me
Mama told me, mama told me
Mama told me not to come (Mama told
me not to come)
"That ain't the way to have fun, no"
"That ain't the way to have fun, son"
"That ain't the way to have fun, no"
"That ain't the way to have fun, son"

(Dick leaves SR, Rat and Group enter SL, and Chris follows on, observing from afar)

King Rat I hate you, you and especially you. *(Pointing)* Carry on booing you lot. I love it. Can't get enough. Love it, love it, love it. Sometimes I feel like Everybody hates me... and it's greeeeaaaattttttt.

Mrs Rat That can't be right... not everyone knows you. Me and him were happy for twenty years... then we met!

King Rat There's no need for that, a touch cruel my dear, a little mean.... do you ever wonder what life would be like if you'd been born with a little compassion?

Mrs Rat Well I wouldn't have put up with you and your brainless ideas for so long. I'd like to leave you with just one thought... but I'm not sure you have anywhere to put it!

King Rat My wife has a speech impediment; every now and then she has to stop talking to take a breath. I haven't spoken to her for years; I didn't want to interrupt her...

Dick Whittington

- Mrs Rat The quickest way to a man's heart... is through his chest. People ask 'what's the secret of our long marriage? Well... we take time to go out for dinner two times a week. Candlelight, good food, soft music, dancing, romance... He goes Tuesdays and I go Fridays. If I ever needed a brain transplant I'd want his, it's never been used...
- Billy When you two have stopped trading insults, what's the plan this time oh Mighty King? As if it's got any more chance of success than any of the other half-cooked, half-baked, dim-witted ideas you've come up with in the past. To say we are not successful is a gross understatement. Crime pays? Not here it doesn't! The quickest way to cut crime would be to appoint King Rat as master of the underworld, the crime figures would be reduced immediately.
- Rob You, you, you, you can't talk to the boss like that. He does his best.
- Bob Yeah. It's not fair if we always seem to lose the plot. You can't blame him.
- King Rat I shall treat those comments, Billy, with the contempt they deserve. I know we're not always 100% successful, that our plans don't always turn out right—
- Billy Try 'never' turn out right. In a world of mishaps and mistakes, we are the best, the Olympic Champions. They could do another programme, 'It won't be alright on the night'. Look in the dictionary at the definition of mistakes and it's us. "Mistakes am we".
- King Rat That's thoroughly cheered us all up, thanks for those words of support, very encouraging. Nothing like a few rousing words to lift the spirits... and that was nothing like a few rousing words.
- Rob Don't mind him boss, he don't speak for all of us. We still think you're okay.
- Bob Yeah, we're right behind you boss, and that goes for all the others, don't it? (*mixed half-baked response*)
- Mrs Rat On that resounding note of support. What's your next great plan?
- King Rat I'm going to rob that self-satisfied, smug Alderman Fitzwarren and make sure he blames that half-wit Dick Whittington. All we need to do is find someone on the inside... (*Idle Jack has wandered in from SL, yawned etc*) Someone who can help us pull it off, someone who works for the Alderman and lives in his house where he keeps all his money and who knows how the security systems work and all that.
- Billy Someone like Idle Jack here. Who works for the Alderman, who lives in-house and knows where the money is you mean?
- King Rat Yeah. Someone like Idle Jack who loves the Alderman's daughter Alice, but she's mooning round after Dick Whittington. Someone who would be grateful to get rid of

Dick Whittington

Dick Whittington and make some easy cash into the bargain. Yeah, someone like that.

Idle Jack *(Spark of interest)* Did I hear the phrase 'easy cash'?

Billy It's a miracle... Lazarus is risen ... the dead got up and walked. Mention work and he gets this occupational deafness... mention easy money and his hearing is keener than a keen hearing specialist.

King Rat Help me to rob the Alderman and frame Dick Whittington so that he gets the blame for stealing the money, and we can get rid of him. You get Alice and some cash for your troubles. And Robert is your mother's brother.

Idle Jack Sorry, you lost me there.

Billy Bob's your Uncle...

Idle Jack *(Puzzled)* I ain't related to Bob.... As long as it doesn't involve doing anything physical. Count me in. *(Leaves SL, Chris leaves SR)*

Mrs Rat You can be sure it'll involve nothing physical. The last time he got physical was when he mistook the Ralgex for his pile cream... Brought tears to his eyes that did and I can see a few of you out there can sympathise.

King Rat I love it when a plan comes together, when you can see the light at the end of the tunnel, and it's big and the futures bright...

7. Getting Better (Rats)

It's getting better all the time

I used to get mad at my school (No I can't complain)

The teachers who taught me weren't cool (No I can't complain)

You're holding me down (Oh), turning me round (Oh)

Filling me up with your rules (Foolish rules)

I've got to admit it's getting better (Better)

A little better all the time (It can't get more worse)

I have to admit it's getting better (Better)

It's getting better since you've been mine

Me used to be angry young man

Me hiding me head in the sand

You gave me the word, I finally heard

I'm doing the best that I can

I've got to admit it's getting better (Better)

A little better all the time (It can't get more worse)

I have to admit it's getting better (Better)

It's getting better since you've been mine

Getting so much better all the time

It's getting better all the time

Better, better, better

It's getting better all the time

Better, better, better

I used to be cruel to my woman

I beat her and kept her apart from the things that she loved

Dick Whittington

Man I was mean but I'm changing my scene
And I'm doing the best that I can (Ooh)

I admit it's getting better (Better)
A little better all the time (It can't get more worse)

Yes I admit it's getting better (Better)
They leave SL, Chris enters SR followed by cats)

It's getting better since you've been mine
Getting so much better all the time
It's getting better all the time
Better, better, better
It's getting better all the time
Better, better, better
Getting so much better all the time

Chris Hello boys and girls, Ladies and Gents. *(wait)* So, King Rat has enlisted the assistance of Idle Jack, who works for Alderman Fitzwarren, to help them rob the Alderman of his entire wealth, and blame Dick Whittington for it.

Tucker Sounds like a good plan to me. Can't we get a cut?

Ginger You greedy cat. You know we're not like that. Where are your purrrrrinciples? Your ethics? Your morality? Your integrity *(Tucker puzzles)*

Garfield You lost him at Principles ... Unless it's got something to do with food or his stomach, he hasn't got a clue.

Nigella So we need to find out when they intend to strike and then we can plan how we are going to thwart them.

Tucker Have we got to thwart them? Can't we just eat them?

Ginger Again, you greedy cat! Chris, we need you see Dick. Spend some time with him and find out about the Alderman's money, where he keeps it, and the key. The rest should be easy. I mean, they're a bunch of thick rats and an idle good for nothing shop boy.

Chris Shouldn't be too difficult. I'll go and find him. *(Leaves SL)*

Garfield What's the plan then? I know they're thick but they can be quite nasty and determined. They won't give up easily, especially if there's a lot of money involved...

Nigella And whatever we do, we want to bring an end to all this. The people of London have been terrorised by these rats for long enough.

Ginger One step at a time. If we can find out when and how they intend to do it, we can puuurrrrlan to strike at an appropriate time. It needs to be clever. *(Chris and Dick enter DSL)*

Chris You're settling in at the Emporium then?

Dick Yes, it's not what I imagined, London, Gold and streets. It does mean I'm near to

Dick Whittington

Alice but she doesn't even know I exist... *(To audience)* I said, she doesn't even know I exist... come on, keep up... *(To Chris)* and as for work, Idle Jack is so useless the Alderman has given me the only key to the safe to look after. Every night I take the money from the Emporium to the safe at the house. He keeps all of his money in the safe... he doesn't trust banks.

Chris And where do you keep the key when you're not at work?

Dick I hide it in a very secret, very special secure place that no one would ever think of looking. Never in a million years would anyone guess. I keep it under—

Chris *(interrupting)* –Under your mattress.

Dick Continuing) Under my mattress. Gosh, you're good. It's a good thing you're not dishonest. But tomorrow, all of the money is being moved out of the house to the big safe at London Town Hall. *(Dick leaves SL, Chris joins the other cats)*

Chris He's in charge of the only safe key. Alderman Fitzwarren keeps all his money in the safe. Dick hides the safe key under his mattress. The money is being moved to the Town Hall tomorrow. Not really difficult is it? It'll be tonight the rat's strike.

Tucker So what you're saying is?

Nigella The robbery happens tonight, but what are we going to do about it?

Garfield It'll be easy to stop. Just tell the police and they'll catch them in the act.

Ginger Yes, but I bet King Rat won't be there getting his hands dirty and the Police will still think Dick was involved in it. We need the Rat's to get away with it. We need them to think they have got it right this time and then it'll hurt all the more when they fail.

Chris I love it.... **(RHYME)**
We'll foil their plan and beat them hollow
If our ploy they choose to follow
It's a sneaky trick but bound to win
As our carefully laid trap they eagerly fall in.... to
We'll make them grovel and get the Alderman's cash
And return it to him in a trice or a flash

8. Love cats (Cats)

We move like cagey tigers
We couldn't get closer than this
The way we love
The way we talk
The way we stalk
The way we kiss

We slip through the streets
While everyone sleeps
Getting bigger and sleeker
And wider and brighter
We bite and scratch and scream all night
Let's go and

Dick Whittington

Throw all the songs we know

Into the sea

You and me

All these years and no one heard

I'll show you in spring

It's a treacherous thing

We missed you hissed the lovecats

We're so wonderfully, wonderfully,
wonderfully

Wonderfully pretty

Oh you know that i'd do anything for you

We should have each other to tea huh?

We should have each other with cream

Then curl up by the fire

And sleep for awhile

It's the grooviest thing

It's the perfect dream

Hand in hand

Is the only way to land

And always the right way round

Not broken in pieces

Like hated little meeces

How could we miss

Someone as dumb as this

I love you ... let's go

Oh ... solid gone ...

How could we miss someone as dumb

As this?

(They all leave SL)

Scene III – The Fitzwarrens Kitchen

Butler *(On from SL)* I really must stop eating so much, I think I'm putting on weight and if I'm not careful, I will cease to be irresistible to all the women here.

Page Cease to be what? ... Try never be irresistible. When did you last have an eye test .. But I know what you're saying. We're all eating too much. I know we only get the leftovers, but there's normally so much of it.

Butler Especially as get the first 'crack at it' before the staff from the emporium can eat. It's hard to say "no", so difficult to avoid filling my plate.

Page I used to have an eating disorder. Bulimic Amnesia. I ate like a pig and forgot to be sick.

Butler The Doctor put me on a sea-food diet. I could see food, and eat it.

Page He put me on a whisky diet... I lost 4 days! *(they leave SL)*

Idle Jack *(On from SR)* I have to get the key from under old 'clever' Dicks mattress, let the Rats into the house through the kitchen and give them the safe key to open the safe and steal all the money and then make sure they leave the key in the safe so Dick gets the blame. Perfection.

Eileen *(On from SR)* Mary, Mary, where are you? The spotted dick is ready and if it's not served soon it will be ruined. What are you doing in my kitchen Lazy Larry?

Idle Jack It's Jack. Idle Jack.

Dick Whittington

- Eileen This place is out of bounds to the likes of you.
- Idle Jack I was just eerrmmmm coming to see eeerrrrmmmm what we've got for tea...
- Eileen Well this is no place for you. Get out at once! Mary! Mary! If I have to call that girl one more time I swear I'm going to... *(Mary enters from SR)* Where have you been my girl? If my spotted dick is ruined because you're too lazy to move, you can look out...
- Mary Sorry Cook, they've only just finished their main course and you know what Mr Fitzwarren is like when he's entertaining...
- Eileen Look my girl, that cut's no ice with me. I've served Alderman Fitzwarren these past twenty years and I know an Idle Maid when I see one. You and this good for nothing shop boy here would make a good pair. Hardly a spark of energy between you. I've seen more life in a tramps vest...
- Idle Jack Here, I resemble that remark.
- Eileen You still here? I thought I told you to get out of my kitchen
- Idle Jack I'm going, but I'll be back *(In the style of Arnie) (Leaves SL)*
- Mary Who's that?
- Eileen That's Idle Jack; he works for the Alderman in his emporium and you should have nothing to do with him. Now come on, let's get this dessert out before it's completely ruined *(they leave SR)*
- Idle Jack *(From SL with big key)* So far so good, the key was under his mattress. Now all I need are some rats. *(Rob, Bob and Billy Rat enter from SL, take key and leave SR)* I've just got to keep an eye out so they can get away without that interfering Old Cook finding out.
- Eileen *(From SR)* What are you doing back here, in my kitchen?
- Idle Jack *(Hesitant)* Errrr, I came to apologise. I'm errr sorry for coming in before, without your permission.
- Eileen Yeah, yeah. Well don't let it happen again. Was there anything else?
- Idle Jack Errmm... No... That's it. *(He loiters SL and cook leaves again SR, the Rats enter USR with the loot from the safe)* Thank goodness, I'm not sure I can take much more of this. Quick before she comes back *(Cook enters from SR)*
- Eileen Loud scream... *(Jack and Rats leave SL. Jack returns during the number)*

Dick Whittington

9. Rat in me Kitchen (Fitzwarrens)

Wo wo wo yeah,oh yeah, yeah

There`s a rat in me kitchen what am I gonna do?

There`s a rat in me kitchen what am I gonna go?

I`m gonna fix that rat thats what I`m gonna do, I`m gonna fix that rat.

When you open your mouth you don`t talk, you shout

And you give every body the blame,

But when they catch you up,

They will shut you up

And you got no one to blame

There`s a rat in me kitchen what am I gonna do?

There`s a rat in me kitchen what am I gonna go?

I`m gonna fix that rat thats what I`m gonna do, I`m gonna fix that rat.

Wo wo wo yeah,oh yeah, yeah

There`s a rat in me kitchen what am I gonna do?

There`s a rat in me kitchen what am I gonna go?

I`m gonna fix that rat thats what I`m gonna do, I`m gonna fix that rat.

When you out on the street,

You practice lies and deceit

And you scandalize my name

But when I catch you up

I`m gonna pull you up

I`m gonna check-out inside your brain

There`s a rat in me kitchen what am I gonna do?

There`s a rat in me kitchen what am I gonna go?

I`m gonna fix that rat thats what I`m gonna do, I`m gonna fix that rat.

Wo wo wo yeah,oh yeah, yeah

There`s a rat in me kitchen what am I gonna do?

There`s a rat in me kitchen what am I gonna go?

I`m gonna fix that rat thats what I`m gonna do, I`m gonna fix that rat.

When yo step on the scene,

You make everyone scream

Because they know your so unjust

But when they catch you up

They will kick you up

Because you someone they cannot trust

There`s a rat in me kitchen what am I gonna do?

There`s a rat in me kitchen what am I gonna go?

I`m gonna fix that rat thats what I`m gonna do, I`m gonna fix that rat.

Wo wo wo yeah,oh yeah, yeah

There`s a rat in me kitchen what am I gonna do?

There`s a rat in me kitchen what am I gonna go?

I`m gonna fix that rat thats what I`m gonna do, I`m gonna fix that rat.

(Dick joins the number. They all stay on stage at end of number except Mary, off SR at direction of Alice)

Ald Fitzw It looks like the rats have gone now Cook. That must have given you quite a fright.

Dick Whittington

Sit down and have a drink to calm your nerves (*she takes a massive swig*) I said to calm your nerves not drown them! Here Geoff.

Idle Jack It's Jack, Jaaaack Idle Jack.

Ald.
Fitzw. Alright... Idle Jack. Can you please go and see if the rats are anywhere outside (*he leaves SL*)

Alice What can they have been doing in the kitchen Father? (*enter Mary SR rushing*)

Mary The safe is empty, and I found this key in the door (*all gasp, excited chatter*)

Ald.
Fitzw. (*To Dick, accusing*) You! I trusted you with the only key and you have betrayed that trust by letting the rats have the key and empty my safe. They've stolen all my money and it's all your fault! Get out of my sight! (*Dick leaves SL slowly audience ahh*)

Alice Father, that was harsh.

Ald Fitzw Harsh! I'll give him harsh. Alice, my Child, I trusted that thief with the safe key and now all my money has been stolen. Do you understand what that means? The end of all this. We have to start from scratch again. Ohhhh, I blame myself for allowing him to take me in, with his innocent face and that lost soul act, and look where that's landed me. We will have to set sail at once and try to earn my fortune again, sailing the seven seas and buying new and exotic wares for my Emporium. (*They all exit*)

Butler I knew that Dick Whittington was a bad 'un as soon as I set my eyes on him. All that "I'm just a poor innocent Country boy" act. Didn't have me fooled for a minute.

Page Yeah, no one could be that innocent. I knew he was up to no good but its mistress Alice I feel sorry for. I think she lost her heart to him ... And now he's gone and broken it for her. (*they leave SR*)

Idle Jack So far so good. It was bit hair-raising but it worked like a dream. Talking of dreams, I'm exhausted. There's a smelly pit of a bed up there with my name on it. I think I'll go and sleep, and dream of what I can do with my new, hard earned wealth. Perhaps that Mary might be interested in me. She's a bit of alright. Or I could try Alice, now I've got money and she ain't. (*laughs then yawns and leaves*)

10. Somebody to love (Alice + ensemble)

Can anybody find me somebody to love?

Lord, what you're doing to me

Each morning I get up I die a little

I have spent all my years in believing you

Can barely stand on my feet

But I just can't get no relief, Lord!

Take a look in the mirror and cry

Somebody, somebody

Dick Whittington

Can anybody find me somebody to love?

I work hard (he works hard) every day of my life

I work 'til I ache my bones

At the end (at the end of the day) I take home my hard-earned pay all on my own

I get down (down) on my knees (knees)

And I start to pray (praise the Lord)

'Til the tears run down from my eyes

Lord, somebody, somebody (please)

Can anybody find me somebody to love?

(she works hard) everyday (everyday)

I try, and I try, and I try

But everybody wants to put me down

They say I'm goin' crazy

They say I got a lot of water in my brain

I got no common sense

I got nobody left to believe in

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah

Music break

Lord

Somebody, somebody

Can anybody find me somebody to love?

(Can anybody find me someone to love)

Got no feel, I got no rhythm

I just keep losing my beat (you just keep losing and losing)

I'm OK, I'm alright (she's alright, she's alright)

I ain't gonna face no defeat

I just gotta get out of this prison cell

One day (someday) I'm gonna be free,

Lord!

Find me somebody to love [x10]

Somebody (somebody)

Somebody (somebody)

Somebody (find me)

Somebody find me somebody to love

Can anybody find me

Somebody to love?

(Find me somebody to love) [x 10]

Scene IV - The Road to London

Dick is walking, followed by Chris. They stop and look back. Bells are heard and the band begin to play Total Eclipse of the Heart the only part of which is sung is 'Turn around'. Dick engages with the audience to see who is singing it.

Chris Hello boys and girls, Ladies and Gents (*wait*) Dick! Stop. Can't you hear the bells of London telling you to 'turn around' Dick Whittington? (*Bells*)

Dick All I can hear is bing bong bing bong etc.

Chris No, listen, can't you hear them saying (*bells*) 'turn back Dick Whittington'?

Dick That's you.

Chris No it's not. Listen again.

Dick Well now you mention it. It does sound like that. You're amazing Chris.

Chris Yes, I know. Now come on, you can't give up just like that. You had nothing to do with stealing that money. Are you going leave and have them thinking you're a

Dick Whittington

common thief?

Dick I'm not common. I come from a good home... in Aldridge.

Chris What about Alice? You can't leave here with her thinking you betrayed her. After all, she got you the job in the first place. Don't you want to go back and at least try to make it up to her, convince her you're not a thief?

Dick I suppose you're right. You know, Alice doesn't realise how I feel about her. I might as well not exist.

Chris *(To audience)* it's the classic 'he doesn't know that she likes him; she doesn't know that he likes her'. If she knew what he knew, and he knew what she knew, and they both knew what I know, what you know ... and you know what, there'd be no second act. For now they will just have to dream about each other.

11. So happy together (Full Company)

Imagine me and you, I do
I think about you day and night,
It's only right
To think about the girl/guy you love,
And hold her/him tight
So happy together

I can't see me loving nobody but you,
For all my life
When you're with me, Baby the skies will
be blue
For all my life

If I should call you up, Invest a dime
And you say you belong to me,
And ease my mind
Imagine how the world could be,
So very fine
So happy together

Me and you, And you and me
No matter how they tossed the dice,
It had to be
The only one for me is you,
And you for me
So happy together

I can't see me loving nobody but you,
For all my life
When you're with me, Baby the skies will
be blue
For all my life

Me and you, And you and me
No matter how they tossed the dice,
It had to be
The only one for me is you,
And you for me
So happy together, So happy together

Me and you, And you and me
No matter how they tossed the dice,
It had to be
The only one for me is you,
And you for me
So happy together

How is the weather
So happy together
We're happy together
So happy together...

----- CURTAIN -----

Dick Whittington

Act II

Scene I – A Ship

1. Seasons of Love (Full Company)

Five hundred twenty-five thousand
Six hundred minutes,
Five hundred twenty-five thousand
Moments so dear.
Five hundred twenty-five thousand
Six hundred minutes
How do you measure, measure a year?

In daylights, in sunsets, in midnights
In cups of coffee
In inches, in miles, in laughter, in strife.

In five hundred twenty-five thousand
Six hundred minutes
How do you measure
A year in the life?

How about love?
How about love?
How about love? Measure in love

Seasons of love. Seasons of love

Five hundred twenty-five thousand
Six hundred minutes!
Five hundred twenty-five thousand
Journeys to plan.

Five hundred twenty-five thousand
Six hundred minutes
How do you measure the life
Of a woman or a man?

In truths that she learned,
Or in times that he cried.
In the bridges he burned,
Or the way that she died.

It's time now to sing out,
Tho' the story never ends
Let's celebrate
Remember a year in the life of friends
Remember the love!
Remember the love!
Seasons of love!

How about love?
How about love?
How about love? (measure your life in
loooove)
Measure in love
Seasons of love
Seasons of love

(All exit except Chris)

Chris Hello boys and girls, Ladies and Gents. *(wait)* So here we are on a ship. Alderman Fitzwarren is broke and we are on a voyage around the World seeking new wares for his emporium so that he can make his fortune all over again. *(Dick, in disguise walks by)* Hello me hearty, shiver me timbers and all that.

Dick Psssttttt

Chris I totally deny that! I had one glass of wine, that's all, and the unsteady walk is due to the roll of the ship and the swell of the sea. You strange washer woman.

Dick Noooo! Look Chris, it's me... Dick. I managed to disguise myself as a washer woman

Dick Whittington

and I was able to sneak on board.

- Chris All the other cats came too. Alderman Fitzwarren wanted to make sure there were no Rats on board to eat the supplies, for this is likely to be a long voyage.
- Dick Well they've failed miserably. King Rat and all his mates are all on board. I saw them, the only blessing is they didn't recognise me. I need to get to Alice and convince her I'm innocent and make sure that Idle Jack gets his just desserts.
- Ginger *(cats from SL)* Chris, this is all very well, but how do we get to sort out the rats and Alderman Fitzwarren's money while we're here, and they're there.
- Tucker There, there, *(patting ginger)*.
- Ginger No, you bloated fool. The rats are there in London, and we're here on this ship bound for foreign climes seeking exotic wares. *(Tucker mouths where?)*
- Chris Look no further. The rats have crept on board and are stowaways. No doubt sensing a long voyage and easy pickings from the food store.
- Garfield So all we have to do is capture them, throw them all overboard and the problem will be solved.
- Nigella Except that doesn't find the money they stole from the Alderman. And if we don't get that back, we've failed in our mission.
- Tucker We could catch them, one at a time... and eat them.
- Garfield Yet another stupid comment from the one whose answer to every problem is 'eat it'. Not very scientific and certainly not very appetising.
- Ginger And not very Purrrrposeful. We need to capture them all together and force them into revealing where the money is.
- Nigella Once they have lost the money, all the other rats would leave King Rat like... like.... like... rats leaving a sinking ship.
- Dick Wait a minute, what did you say?
- Nigella Once they lost the money they'd leave King Rat like rats leaving a sinking ship.
- Dick That's it! Make them think the ship is sinking, and catch them as they go to leave.
- Chris By Jove, he's got it. *(rats enter, shiftily from SR)*
- King Rat I hate you all. You, you and... you. I Thought I'd find you lot here. Well get this, and get it good. I HATE ALL CATS. I hate you, you and especially you and we're here to

Dick Whittington

stay. Oh! and by the way, we mean to make your lives a misery.

Ginger We'll see about that my friend...

(Rats leave SR laughing and raucous...)

Tucker Let me eat them; please let me eat them.

Ginger No, we'll trap them and force them to give us the money back. Get the net ready. Now all we need is to create a fear among the rats that the ship is sinking *(the cats don rubber rings armbands etc. and begin shouting into the SR wing that the ships sinking, going down, we'll all be doomed etc... The rats run onto stage from SR, straight into the net... Led by King and Mrs Rat)*

Mrs Rat Well this is another fine net you've got me into.

King Rat You just can't leave it alone can you? *(To Ginger)* So, what're you gonna do now, Mr Roughy, toughy cat? You don't think I'm frightened of you, do you?

Ginger Throw you all overboard and leave you to sink or swim.

Billy Just you let me get at them. I'll show them what for, making us look like a bunch of fools. Just let me out of here and I'll sort them out.

Mrs Rat Billy, don't be a hero. *(Pause for laugh)* There comes a time when you have to recognise that you have just one chance to survive. Grovel.

Billy That does it. If they think I'm going to sacrifice myself for this bunch of idiots, King Rat and his grand ideas without any chance of success, they can think again. Look, you can't do that... we... can't... swim *(sobs)*.

Garfield Well that's let the cat out of the bag, if you'll pardon the pun. Tough! That's the way the cookie crumbles and you have a particularly crumbly cookie with no plate to catch the bits.

Bob Come on boss, you can't let them get away with this; we'll all perish in the water. It's.... it's... cold... and... wet... and we can't swim ...

Rob And all those big waves and that, we stand no chance if they throw us off...

Billy Come on King Rat think of something before it's too late.

Mrs Rat Yes! For once in your life, engage what you laughingly call your brain and come up with a way out of this one, or I swear I'll never speak to you again.

King Rat Don't tempt me..... *(slyly, to Ginger)* Can't we discuss this Ratshionally, Rat to Cat like? Let's negotiate. What would it take for us to do a deal?

Dick Whittington

- Ginger Give us the money back that you stole from Alderman Fitzwarren.
- King Rat Behave! What do you take me for? That's my pension fund.
- Chris Assuming you live long enough to get to pension age. How long do you think you'd last in that water? It's cold, deep and wet and you can't swim.
- Mrs Rat Give him the money now, or we are really going to fall out.
- King Rat Once again, don't tempt me Oh alright, I give in. I'll take you to the money (*King Rat is led away off SR by Garfield and Nigella*)
- Ald Fitzw (*Ald. Fitzw. & family etc enter from SL*) What's all the noise about? (*Sees the rats*) Oyyyyy, what are they doing on board? I thought you cats were supposed to stop them. What's the point? I've been betrayed again, first that Dick Whittington, now...
- Ginger Leave it! The rats managed to stow away, but we've captured them (*King Rat, Garfield and Nigella return with money*)
- Garfield And I think you will find that this money is yours, Sir.
- Ald Fitzw Good Lord, where did this come from?
- Chris We knew they had stolen your money from the safe, and they managed to stage it so Dick would get the blame. We had to make sure we not only sorted the rats out, but got your money back as well... (*Rats are ushered off SR by cats*)
- Ald Fitzw Well this makes this whole trip somewhat unnecessary. I've got my money back and you've sorted the rats out to boot...

2. Rat Trap (Fitzwarrens)

There was a lot of rocking going on that night,
Cruising time for the young bright lights,
Just down past the gasworks, by the meat factory door,
The five lamp boys were coming on strong.
The Saturday night city beat had already started
The pulse of the corner boys sprang into action
And young Billy watched it all under the yellow street light

And said "tonight of all nights there's gonna be a fight"

Billy don't like it living here in this town
He says the traps have been sprung long before he was born
He says "hope bites the dust behind all the closed doors
And pus and grime ooze from its scab crusted sores.
There's screaming and crying in the high rise blocks"

Dick Whittington

It's a rat trap Billy and you're already
caught
But you can make it if you want to or you
need it bad enough
You're young and good looking and you're
acting kind of tough
Anyway it's Saturday night time to see
what's going down.
Put on the bright suit Billy, head for the
right side of town
It's only 8 o'clock but you're already bored
You don't know what it is but there's got
to be more
You'd better find a way out, hey kick down
the door
It's a rat trap and you've been caught

In this town Billy says "everybody tries to
tell you what to do"
In this town Billy says "everybody says you
gotta follow rules."
you walk up to those traffic lights,
Switch from your left to right
You push in that button, and when that
button comes alight
It tells you
"Walk don't walk
Talk don't talk" (repeated)
Hey Billy take a walk...with me. (
Repeated)

(They remain on stage)

- Alice That's all very well, but what about Dick? He was accused of being in league with the rats and left London in disgrace and shame. What's to become of him?
- Chris I think Bedridden Bob may know something about that.
- Idle Jack It's Jack... Idle Jack.... I don't know what you're talking about. I know nothing. I from Barcelona. *(sings)* I am an innocent man.
- Chris Not with a voice like that you're not. You let the rats into the Alderman's house and gave them the safe key from under Dick's mattress, didn't you?
- Idle Jack How dare you suggest such a thing! I never heard such a whopping big lie since... since... since ... the last General Election

(instrumental)

Little Jimmy's trying to watch "top of the
pops"
But mum and dad are fighting don't they
ever stop,
he take down her coat and walks out on
the street,
It's cold on that road, but it's got that
home beat,
Deep down in his pockets he finds 50p.,
Now is that any way for a young guy to be,
"I'm gonna get out of school work in some
factory,
Work all the hours God gave me get
myself a little easy money"
Now, now, now na na.

His mind's made up, he walks down the
road,
His hands in her pockets, coat buttoned
'gainst the cold,
he finds Billy down at the Italian cafe
And when he's drunk it's hard to
understand what Billy says
But then he mumbles in his coffee and
suddenly roars,
"It's a rat trap and we've been caught...."

Dick Whittington

- Chris Do I have to get violent to get to the truth?
- Idle Jack Oh, alright then. Yeah, I let the Rats in and gave them the key. I thought it would get rid of Dick and leave the field open for me to get together with Alice. Oh Dear, Never mind , how sad ... eh.
- Ald. Fitzw Once we get back to London you can start looking for a new job. *(A la Alan Sugar)*
You're fired.
- Alice But where does that leave Dick?
- Dick Here I am, disguised as a washer-woman. *(they go to embrace, think better of it and shyly 'shake hands')*
- Eileen I don't know. What's the World coming to? Men dressing as women... I ask you... *(The Fitzwarrens etc. all leave SL, rats on from SR)*
- Mrs Rat So what's the bright idea now Mr smart arrrrmmm. This is a right pickle, make no mistake.
- King Rat You have to be philosophical. It could be worse, they could have turfed us all overboard. This way, I know we don't have the money, but we have our health and when all's said and done, that's what matters... ehhhh.
- Mrs Rat I sometimes think his teeth are brighter than he is.

3. Bright side of the Road (Rats)

From the dark end of the street To the bright side of the road We'll be lovers once again on the Bright side of the road	In the twinkling of an eye Let's enjoy it while we can Won't you help me sing my song From the dark end of the street To the bright side of the road
Little darlin', come with me Won't you help me share my load From the dark end of the street To the bright side of the road	From the dark end of the street To the bright side of the road We'll be lovers once again On the bright side of the road
Into this life we're born Baby sometimes we don't know why And time seems to go by so fast	We'll be lovers once again on the bright side of the road

(They leave SR, cats on from SL)

- Ginger So that's about it. Job done. Alderman Fitzwarren is so pleased he's paid Dick a handsome reward, I said a handsome reward, and Dick has promised to look after us when we get back to London.

Dick Whittington

- Chris Then I can start to look for my next project, the next deserving cause.
- Garfield I bet you won't have to look far. But take a break first. Everybody needs a holiday. Chill out and take some time off.
- Tucker Yeah, recharge the old batterie. Get some food fuel down yer.
- Nigella Food again! Holidays are about more than food you know, you can relax and forget the stresses and strains of life.
- Ginger Hark at you lot. To hear this, people would think you had a really hard time, purrrgatory. In reality, life, is one long holiday for us cats and from here on it will be even better. The rats have learnt their lesson.
- Garfield Dick Whittington is forever in debt to us for helping to prove he was innocent all along, and he is such a kind soul, he'll look after us.
- Nigella The Alderman is so grateful about getting his money back he wants to reward us.
- Tucker So it's double dinners all round if we play our cards right.
- Ginger If you can manage it, I'm sure you can get away with it.
- Chris All in all then, not a bad result, eh?

4. Stray Cat strut (cats)

- | | |
|--|--|
| Ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh | Yeah, don't cross my path |
| Ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh | |
| Ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh | I don't bother chasing mice around, oh, no |
| Ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh | I slink down the alley looking for a fight |
| | Howling to the moonlight on a hot |
| Black and orange stray cat sittin' on a | summer night |
| fence | Singin' the blues while the lady cats cry |
| Ain't got enough dough to pay the rent | "Wild stray cat, you're a real gone guy |
| I'm flat broke, but I don't care | I wish I could be as carefree and wild |
| I strut right by with my tail in the air | But I got cat class, and I got cat style" |
| | |
| Stray cat strut, I'm a (Ladies' cat) | I don't bother chasing mice around |
| I'm a feline Casanova (Hey, man, that's | I slink down the alley looking for a fight |
| where it's at) | Howling to the moonlight on a hot |
| Get a shoe thrown at me from a mean old | summer night |
| man | Singin' the blues while the lady cats cry |
| Get my dinner from a garbage can | "Wild stray cat, you're a real gone guy |
| | I wish I could be as carefree and wild |
| Meow | But I got cat class, and I got cat style" |

Dick Whittington

Meow

(Most Cats off SL except Chris and Co.)

5. Audience Participation

Scene II - A London Street

Enter Dick from SR, then Alice from SL. She is transformed

Dick *(To Alice. He doesn't recognise her)* Hello.

Alice Hello Dick Whittington.

Dick How do they do that? Sorry, do I know you?

Alice It's me, Alice. Don't you recognise me?

Dick No! Wow! What have you done?

Alice I had a Gok moment. What do you think?

Dick You look lovely. *(Aside)* And there's even less chance for me now, she looks stunning

.Alice *(To audience)* I thought once he saw me like this, he would make a move. What's wrong with me? No matter what I do, he seems to be determined to avoid me.

(They are joined on stage by Chris)

Chris Hello boys and girls, Ladies and Gents *(wait)* Have you two still not got it?

Dick/
Alice Got What?

Chris Alice, he fancies you something rotten, has done since he first set eyes on you. And Dick, she has never had eyes for anyone else since you first set foot in her life. Now unless someone points out this obvious fact, we could be here for quite a while waiting for the penny to drop. For goodness sake, kiss each other. *(they do)*

6. Life's about to get good - Dick and Alice

I wasn't just broken, I was shattered
I trusted you so much, you're all that
mattered
You no longer love me, and I sang like a
sad bird
I couldn't move on, and I think you were
flattered

Oh! Life's about joy, life's about pain
It's all about forgiving, and the will to walk
away
I'm ready to be loved, and love the way I
should
Life's about, life's about to get good

Dick Whittington

Oh! Life's about to get good
Oh! Life's about to get good
Oh! Life's about to get good

The longer my tears fell, the wider the
river
(Did you love me, baby?)
It killed me that you'd give your life to be
with her
(Did you love me, baby?)
I had to believe that things would get
better
(Better, bet...)
It was time to forget you forever

Oh! Life's about joy, life's about pain
It's all about forgiving, and the will to walk
away
I'm ready to be loved, and love the way I
should
Life's about, life's about to get good

Oh! Life's about to get good
Oh! Life's about to get good
Oh! Life's about to get good

Oh! Life's about to get good
Oh! Life's about to get good
Oh! Life's about to get good

It took me so long to be strong

But I'm alive, and I hold on
To what I can feel, it hurts to heal
Oh, when love lies

(About to get good)
(About to get good)
(About to get... Ahhh)

Life's about joy (So much joy, yeah), life's
about pain
It's all about forgiving, and the will to walk
away
(Oh, the will to walk away)
I'm ready to be loved, and love the way I
should
(I wanna be loved the way I should)
Life's about, life's about to get good

Oh! Life's about to get good
Oh! Life's about to get good (Life's about
to get good)
Oh! Life's about to get good

Oh! Life's about to get good
Oh! Life's about to get good (Life's about
to get good)
Oh! Life's about to get good

Oh! Life's about joy
Life's about pain
Life's about, life's about to get good

After the song they are joined on stage by the rest of the cast

Ald Fitzw Dick, in addition to the handsome reward... I said the handsome reward... for recovering my fortune from the rats; I am now able to confirm that you will be the next Lord Mayor of London Town.

Dick Thank you so much sir, and *(to audience)* while I'm on a roll, would it be too much to ask for your daughter's hand in marriage?

Ald Fitzw I should think I can agree to that. But where does that leave me? All alone... on my own... with no one to look after me... to while away my final years in lonely solitude. I say again, all alone...

Chris I thought my work here was done, but there's one more string to pull. Alderman

Dick Whittington

Fitzwarren, have you ever noticed that throughout your life, through all the trials and tribulations, constant support has always been at hand from your trusty and faithful Cook, Eileen? And do you know why? Because she couldn't fail to be moved by your plight. She has secretly loved you all these years and will make sure you are never lonely. (*He brings them together*) And now my work is done.

Eileen At last, my dream's come true, the love of my life, and my reason for being...

Ald Fitzw She's... she's... she's... not like other women!

Chris **(RHYME)**
Our story reaches its happy end
So on your way we'll homeward send.... you
Alice and Dick will live happily ever after
In a world full of peace joy and laughter
I can return to my friends, the cats
Happy we managed to beat the rats
The Alderman and cook are a heaven-made match
She's a bloke, and he's... a rich catch

7. Kids (Full Company)

Me no bubbletious
Me smoke heavy tar
Me be groovin' slowly where you are
Notify your next of kin
'Cause you're never coming back
I've been dropping beats since Back in
Black

And we'll paint by numbers
'Til something sticks
Don't mind doing it for the kids
(So come on) jump on board
Take a ride (yeah)
(You'll be doin' it all right)
Jump on board feel the high
'Cause the kids are alright

You've got a reputation
Well I guess that can be explored
You're dancing with the chairman of the
board
Take a ride on my twelve cylinder
symphony
But if you got other plans

The purpose of a woman is to love her
man

And we'll paint by numbers
'Til something sticks
Don't mind doing it for the kids
(So come on) jump on board
Take a ride (yeah)
(Doin' it all right)
Jump on board feel the high
'Cause the kids are alright

I'm gonna give it all of my loving
It's gonna take up all of my love
I'm gonna give it all of my loving
It's gonna take up all of my love
I'm gonna give it all of my loving
It's gonna take up all of my love
I'm gonna give it all of my loving
It's gonna take up all of my love

Come down from the ceiling
I didn't mean to get so high
I couldn't do what I wanted to do
When my lips were dry

Dick Whittington

You can't just up and leave me
I'm a singer in a band
Well I like drummers baby
You're not my bag

Jump on board
Take a ride, yeah
(You'll be doin' it all right)
Jump on board feel the high, yeah

Jump on board
Take a ride, yeah
(You'll be doin' it all right)

Jump on board feel the high, yeah

I'm an honorary Sean Connery, born '74
There's only one of me
Single-handedly raising the economy
Ain't no chance of the record company
dropping me
Press be asking do I care for sodomy
I don't know, yeah, probably
I've been looking for serial monogamy
Not some bird that looks like Billy Connolly
But for now I'm down for ornithology
Grab your binoculars, come follow me

----- Bows -----

8. Never be lonely (Full Company)

People in love get fast and foolish
People in love get everything wrong
People in love get scared and stupid
People in love get everything wrong

At least they're not lonely
At least they're not lonely
Never Be Lonely

BBBBaby I think I'm going CCCrazy
And why should I be sane without you

They tell me to fight it
But they can bloody well just try it
Ill never be the same without you

People in love get special treatment

People in love get everything wrong
People in love their hearts get eaten
People in love get everything wrong

At least they're not lonely
At least they're not lonely
Never Be Lonely

BBBBaby I think I'm going CCCrazy
And why should I be sane without you

They tell me to fight it
But they can bloody well just try it
I'll never be the same without you

Never Be lonely

----- End of Act II -----