

THE HAPPY PRINCE



A musical presentation based on Oscar Wilde's classic story. 40 mins. Abridged and written in simple modern English. Suitable for a class of primary school children aged 7-11 and/or pupils with special needs or EAL. The script is compelling but easy to stage. Spoken parts are short and easy to learn. The performance relies on narration, music and movement. The script comes with a 22-track CD containing 6 attractive modern easy songs and musical pieces for dance/movement sequences. Songs are provided with and without lyrics. No musical ability is needed- just play the backing tracks on the CD and sing along. (However, a simple melody-line score is provided too as a free extra.) Narration binds the script together and reduces the need for prompting.

MORE DETAILS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE:

<http://www.magicparrot.com>

Hints for performing this play:

- The Prince stands on a pedestal as a statue. You may wish to provide the actor relief from fatigue by having a screen drawn across him at certain times, or simply provide a stool.
- In the story, the prince has his gold-leaf covering peeled away. This may be impractical on stage. Substitute other items- e.g. A Golden cape, Golden gloves, Golden Waistcoat, Golden Hat, Golden neckchain etc.
- Recommended Props for this play are:

Items for the Prince (see above) Screen, sheet, sword with a detachable ruby in its hilt, 2 sapphires. Gown and needle for seamstress. Quilt (bed) for sick boy. Cup of river water. Bell for town crier. Writing materials for writer. Broken lead "heart", dead bird.

CAST:

Happy Prince.....	Swallow.....
Town Crier.....	Mayor.....
3 Narrator(s).....	
Angels.....	
Official(s).....	Math Master.....
Charity Children	
Mother.....	Child.....
Town Crier	Foundry Worker
Seamstress.....	Boy
Princess.....	Courtier
Other Courtiers (optional).....	
Egyptian Dancers.....	
Student.....	

Match GirlMatch Girl's Father
Poor People.....

The Happy Prince

Scene opens with an unveiling ceremony. The Happy Prince is standing left of stage, covered in a sheet, behind a screen. The town crier, the mayor, an official, two charity children, a mathematical master, a child and his mother and various poor people enter.

Narrator 1: Long ago, the officials of a great city erected a statue in the city square, in memory of a kind prince who had died. It was time for the statue to be presented to the people by the Mayor.

Town Crier (ringing bell) Oh Yea! Oh Yea! Make way for the Mayor! Come and see the Prince! Come and see the Prince! Oh Yea! Oh Yea! Today is a very great day!

***** **SONG: CD TRACK 1 This is A Great Day!** *****

**People of the town! People of the town!
Everybody Yeah Yeah Everybody gather round!
This is a great day! Oh, Yea! This is a great day!**

**People of the town! People of the town!
Everybody Yeah Yeah Everybody Wave your Arms! (Action)
This is a great day! Oh Yea! This is a great day!**

**People of the Town! People of the Town!
Everybody Yeah Yeah Everybody Celebrate! (Punch upwards with one arm at a time)
This is a great day! Oh Yea! This is a great day! (1 bar drums then intro)**

**People of the Town! People of the Town!
Everybody Yeah Yeah Everybody Clap Your hands! (Action)
This is a great day! Oh Yea! This is a great day!**

Mayor: People of the Town! What a great day. It's time to present our new statue! He is as beautiful as a weathercock! *(to official)* Only not quite so useful. Ladies and gentlemen- I give you - the Happy Prince! *(Opens screen and removes the sheet. Clapping, cheering)*

Child (cries) It's cold, mummy! I want to go home!

Mother: Why can't you be like the Happy Prince? The Happy Prince never cries!

Charity Child: Oh! How lovely! He looks just like an angel.

Other charity children: Yes! Like an angel!

Mathematical Master: How do you know? You have never seen an angel.

Charity Child: Oh yes we have, sir! In our dreams!

(Enter angels, dancing gracefully, exit as music fades)

***** **CD TRACK 2 Angel Music 1** *****

(All except the Prince exit)

Narrator 2: High above the city, on a tall column, stood the statue of the Happy Prince. He was gilded all over with thin leaves of fine gold. For eyes he had two bright sapphires, and a large red ruby glowed on his sword-hilt. One evening, a little swallow flew over the city.

***** **CD TRACK 3: Swallow Music** *****

(ENTER SWALLOW, FLYING GENTLY AROUND THE STAGE AS MUSIC PLAYS)

Narrator 3: Winter was approaching. He should really be flying south for the winter. He saw the statue and landed between the feet of the Happy Prince.

**SIGNIFICANT PART OMITTED HERE
- THIS IS JUST A PREVIEW SCRIPT**

Prince: When I was alive, I didn't know what tears were! **(ANGELS RE-ENTER)**

ANGEL 1 : When he was alive, the Prince was so rich and so well cared for. He never needed to weep.

ANGEL 2: But now, as a tall statue, he can see all the ugliness and misery in this city.

***** **CD TRACK 4: THE PRINCE IS SAD** *****

(SONG IS SUNG BY ALL, WITH ANGELS ON STAGE. ANGELS EXIT WHEN SONG ENDS)

*The Prince is sad! He is weep-ing!
He is sad, not hap-py aft-er all
He can see all the sadness within the c-i-t-y walls.*

*The prince is sad! He is weep-ing.
He is sad, not happy af-ter all.
He can see such misery it makes his sad tears fall.*

*The Prince is sad. Oh...
The Prince is sad. Oh....
The Prince is sad. Oh.....*

Narrator 2: The prince was unhappy because he could see such sadness in the city. He wanted to help. Far away in a little street there is a poor house. One of the windows is open. The prince can see a woman and a boy **(ENTER SEAMSTRESS AND BOY)** Her face is thin and worn, and she has coarse, red hands, all pricked by the needle. She is a seamstress. She is embroidering passion- flowers on a satin gown for the loveliest of the Queen's princesses to wear at the next Court-ball. Her little boy is ill. He has a fever, and he is asking for oranges. But she has no money. She can only give him river water to drink.

BOY: My throat is so sore. Can I have an orange, please?

**SIGNIFICANT PART OMITTED HERE
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PRINCE: Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow, please be my messenger. Take them the ruby from my sword.

SWALLOW: Sir, I cannot. I really must fly south for the winter. I am on my way to Egypt. My friends have already flown ahead. They must be having such a wonderful time in the sunshine.
(Enter Egyptian dancers)

***** **CD TRACK 5 Egyptian Dance** *****

SIGNIFICANT PART OMITTED HERE

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COURTIER: Come, my dear. We must practise our dance steps for the party.

***** **CD TRACK 6 SONG: This is a wonderful life** *****

(Princess and Courtier dance to musical introduction, then sing the song as a duet)

*The stars are shining tonight.
The moon is big and bright.
With so few worries and cares
This is a wonderful life
La La La La La La La La La La La La La La
We're going to a party
This is a wonderful life!*

(Other courtiers join the dance, and song is repeated by all)

NARRATOR 2: The Prince was still sad. Far across the city he can see a young man in an attic. **(ENTER YOUNG MAN)** His hair is brown and crisp, and his lips are as red as a pomegranate, and he has large and dreamy eyes. He is a writer. He is trying to finish a play for the Director of the Theatre, but he is too cold to write any more. There is no fire in the grate, and hunger has made him feel faint.

PRINCE: Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow, please be my messenger. Take him one of my eyes. My eyes are made of precious sapphires.

SWALLOW: Sir, I cannot. I really really must fly south for the winter. I am on my way to Egypt.

PRINCE: Oh, but Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow, please please be my messenger.

NARRATOR 3: So the Swallow agreed. (Optional: He closes the screen around the prince.) So he plucked out the Prince's eye, and flew away to the student's attic. It was easy enough to get in, as there was a hole in the roof. The young man had his head buried in his hands, so he did not hear the flutter of the bird's wings, and when he looked up he found the beautiful sapphire.

STUDENT: At last! I am beginning to be appreciated. This is from a great admirer. Now I can finish writing my play. This is a happy happy day! (SWALLOW RETURNS TO PRINCE. (OPTIONAL- The screen around the Prince may remain in place.)

NARRATOR 1: The swallow returned to the Prince. He was just about to fly away to Egypt.

However, the Prince had another errand for him. The Prince asked him to stay for just one more night. But the weather was getting worse. The swallow knew he would die of cold if he stayed any longer.

***** CD TRACK 7 FLY FLY FLY *****

Swallow:

***I have stayed too long in this cold land!
I must leave before it starts to snow.
Goodbye! It's time fo me to fly!
Goodbye! It's time for me to go!***

All:

***Fly South for the winter to the warm sunshine!
Fly south for the winter Fly! Fly! Fly!***

***You have stayed too long in this cold land!
You must leave before it starts to snow.
Goodbye! It's time for you to fly!
Goodbye! It's time for you to go!***

***Fly South for the winter to the warm sun-shine!
Fly south for the win-ter Fly! Fly! Fly!***

**SIGNIFICANT PART OMITTED HERE
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***** CD TRACK 8: A Little Bit of Heaven *****

(Matchgirl)

***The weather is so cold but I could not go home
I had to sell my matches in the dark.
But now we have this present we are not so poor.
I won't have to sell matches any more.
This is a wish come true This is a wish come true.***

(All)

***A little bit of heaven fell to Earth tonight.
A little bit of heaven landed here
And now you have this present you are not so poor
You won't have to go barefoot any more
This is a wish come true This is a wish come true***

***La La La La La La La La La La -ah
La La La La La La La La La La -ah
La La La La La La La La La La -ah
La La La La La La La La La La -ah
This is a wish come true! This is a wish come true***

A little bit of heaven fell to Earth tonight.

*A little bit of heaven landed here
And now you have this present you are not so poor
You won't have to go barefoot any more
This is a wish come true! This is a wish come true!*

NARRATOR 1: (*Screen around the Prince is removed by the swallow*) The Prince was now blind. He asked the swallow to fly over the city one last time. So the Swallow flew over the great city, and saw the rich people in their beautiful houses, while the beggars were sitting at the gates. Poor starving people in rags were everywhere.

(ENTER ALL CAST EXCEPT ANGELS, MAYOR, TOWN CRIER, FOUNDRY WORKER and OFFICIALS. EGYPTIAN DANCERS HAVE NOW BECOME POOR TOWNSPEOPLE.)

Nobody noticed the swallow. The swallow fell at the Prince's feetand died of the cold. **(Swallow dies)** Nobody even noticed a strange cracking noise inside the Prince. It was his heart breaking.....But at least the people of the town were happy. The Prince allowed them to take everything he had left.

***** **CD TRACK 9 Maybe we are dreaming** *****

(During the song, the poor people clamour to take the Prince's other items of value e.g. hat, cape, belt, gloves, belt, waistcoat etc.

**Maybe we are dreaming Maybe we're deranged
But we get the feeling Our luck has changed!
We are glad for sure! We're gonna starve no more!
Maybe we are dreaming Maybe we're deranged
But we get the feeling Our luck has changed!
We are glad for sure! We're gonna starve no more!**

(4 bar instrumental)

**Hey Hey Hey hey Hip Hip Hip Hip Hip Hoo-ray
We just want to say it's really made our day!**

Repeat

(ENTER Town crier, mayor, and officials. All the cast except the angels and foundry worker are now on stage. This includes all singers/choir if possible.)

NARRATOR 2: Early the next morning the Mayor was walking in the square below with the Town Officials. As they passed the column he looked up at the statue:

MAYOR: Dear me! How shabby the Happy Prince looks!

TOWN CRIER/ OFFICIALS/ MATHS MASTER: (*Echo*) Yes. How shabby indeed!

MAYOR: The ruby has fallen out of his sword, his eyes are gone. He is just a beggar!

TOWN CRIER/ OFFICIALS/ MATHS MASTER: (*Echo*) Yes, just a beggar.

MAYOR: And what's this? A horrible dead bird? Get rid of it! (*Exit Swallow, manhandled by officials*) The law says that birds are not to be allowed to die here. Let's pull this statue down. We must have another statue, of course, and it shall be a statue ofmyself of course." (*Close screen around Prince. Exit Prince manhandled by officials if necessary.*)

TOWN CRIER/ OFFICIALS: No! No! No! A statue of me!

NARRATOR 3 So they pulled down the statue of the Happy Prince and threw the dead bird on a rubbish heap. They quickly melted the statue in a furnace at the nearby foundry.

(ENTER FOUNDRY WORKER)

FOUNDRY WORKER: What a strange thing! This broken lead heart will not melt in the furnace. Shall I throw it away?" (*MAYOR etc agree. He discards the heart away and returns to the crowd.*)

NARRATOR 1: So they threw it on a rubbish-heap with the dead Swallow. What a sad ending for the Prince. What a sad ending for the swallow. But our story is not over yet..... God sent his angels to find the two most precious things in the city.

***** **CD TRACK 10 Angel Music 2** Fade the volume when angels speak *****

(ENTER ANGELS WITH HEART AND DEAD BIRD CONCEALED. DANCE AND SEARCH THE PEOPLE ON STAGE FOR PRECIOUS ITEMS. THEY EACH EXAMINE VARIOUS PRECIOUS ITEMS SUCH AS THE MAYOR’S CHAIN, BUT REJECT THEM.)

**SIGNIFICANT PART OMITTED HERE
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***** **CD TRACK 11: CURTAIN CALL MUSIC** *****
(Take curtain calls in reverse order of cast list)

CD LISTING

01 This is a Great Day! (Vocals)	12 This is a Great Day! (Backing)
02 Angel Music 1	13 Angel Music 1
03 Swallow Music	14 Swallow Music
04 The Prince is Sad (Vocals)	15 The Prince is Sad (Backing)
05 Egyptian Dance	16 Egyptian Dance
06 This is a wonderful life (Vocals)	17 This is a wonderful life (Backing)
07 Fly Fly Fly (Vocals)	18 Fly Fly Fly (Backing)
08 A Little Bit of Heaven (Vocals)	19 A Little Bit of Heaven (Backing)
09 Maybe we are Dreaming	20 Maybe we are Dreaming (Backing)
10 Angel Music 2	21 Angel Music 2
11 Curtain Call Music	22 Curtain Call Music
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