

## **'DICK WHITTINGTON' at BUXTON OPERA HOUSE**

### **King Rat audition**

**CHARACTER NOTE: King Rat is a ruthless East End gangster determined to use every trick in the book to build his empire. His aim is to take control of the City of London with the help of his pack of rats.**

(please note that we may not ask you to read the whole scene)

King Rat      My name is whispered all around  
The grimy streets of London town:  
King Rat! They fear me everywhere  
And there's good reason to beware,  
For I run London's underworld.  
You think I'm kidding, boys and girls?  
Well, pay attention to the facts -  
My henchmen are a pack of rats.  
These rodents, sharp in tooth and claw,  
Will rip apart the city's laws  
And set me up as London's mayor  
Oh yeah! Who says I wouldn't dare?  
My plan is set, and as the time draws near  
My boys will spread confusion, hate and fear  
I'm going to use fake news and information  
To rule this fair old city, then the nation.

*(He starts to laugh evilly. Fairy BB enters with a costume covered in bells.  
King Rat stops abruptly and stares at her)*

Fairy BB      Cat got your tongue, you evil pest?

King Rat      As what, exactly, are you dressed?

Fairy BB      Lost yer glasses? Can't you tell?  
I am the Spirit of the Bells  
Come to stop your evil plans.  
*(Aside to audience)* That is, I know a man who can!

King Rat      A man who can? We'll see about that!  
No human can defeat King Rat  
So buzz back to your fairy manor  
Before you drop another clanger

FBB            Be warned! Don't underestimate my power!  
In London town, within the hour  
A true-born hero will arrive

And he'll make sure your plans don't thrive

King Rat     If you think some country hick  
Can beat me, then you're really thick!

Fairy         Dick Whittington's our hero's name  
He'll beat you at your wicked game  
Hear those bells so sweetly sound?  
They're calling Dick to London town.

*(There is a musical peal of bells and the lights bleed  
through the gauze to reveal Dick on his journey)*

King Rat     Another kid who's swallowed whole  
My tale of streets all paved with gold!  
Tell your boy to turn back soon  
Or London's where he'll meet his doom.

*(Bleed thru stops, lights on stage restored)*

I don't need some Cockney sparrow  
To keep me on the straight and narrow  
So tinkle back to fairyland  
And leave me to my wicked plans

(HE EXITS, LAUGHING)

Fairy B       Don't worry, kids, I'll watch your backs  
And keep you safe from King Rat's pack  
It won't be long till young Dick's here  
Till then we need some good old London cheer  
I've heard a Cockney knees-up's just begun  
So come along with me and join the fun