**SLEEPING BEAUTY AT BUXTON OPERA HOUSE**

**Maleficent audition speech**

Maleficent Go on then – boo me if you dare!

 My curse can make you ugly as a bear,

 A gibbering monkey, warty toad or worse!

 *(Peering into the audience)*

Too late, some other fairy got there first.

 Look at you all – unloved! Unwashed! Unkempt!

You human beings are quite beneath contempt.

 So why should I, a fairy so refined,

Be forced to mix with horrid humankind?

 Revenge is what I seek. Some years ago

 King Bertram and his Queen arranged to show

 Their baby daughter off to all the world

 *(Sweetly)* A naming-party for their little girl! *Aaaah.*

 A list of nobles, peasants and immortals

 Were all invited there to meet their daughter

 Except myself, and with no invitation

 I was excluded from their celebration.

It was a snub that cut me to the bone:

 Chilled my soul and turned my heart to stone

I’ll wind back time to show you what occurred

 The day I was so cruelly ignored.

 *(Christening music starts and gauze bleeds through to show the court assembled around the baby Princess Aurora’s cot. Everyone is cooing at the baby. As Maleficent approaches, the crowd freezes. Maleficent walks over to the cot, pushes everyone aside and peers in. She gags slightly on seeing the baby)*

Maleficent How absolutely … charming.

King Maleficent! How, er, delightful to see you!

Maleficent *(Looking around)* Well, quite a glittering assembly!  *(She snatches an invitation from the hands of a chorus member)*

 And oh! Such pretty invitations! I wonder why mine never arrived? Did you run out of stamps?

King Yes. I mean, no! I’m afraid, um … the reason we didn’t …

Maleficent Yes?

King I mean, we didn’t, er, send you an invitation because …

Maleficent Because …?

King *(Hurriedly)* We thought you might frighten the baby.

Maleficent *(Laughs theatrically)* Oh, is that all?

KIng Yes! So you’re not offended?

Maleficent Offended? *Moi?*

King Well, we feared you might, you know, be …

Maleficent *(Interrupting)* Not at all! And to show you that I bear no ill will towards you and little …

King Aurora.

Maleficent *(Forced smile)* Adorable! Towards little *Aurora,* I will give the child a gift.

King *(Nervously)* That’s very kind, but it’s really not necessary …

Maleficent Silence!!! Now listen! All of you. The Princess shall grow in grace and beauty and be beloved by all, BUT before the sun sets on her eighteen birthday, she shall prick her finger on the spindle of a spinning wheel and die!

King/Queen No!!

Maleficent *(Sweetly)* A thoughtful gift, I’m sure you’ll agree. Well, I don’t want to outstay my welcome. Do have a lovely party!

 *(Pyro – she is gone)*