

Percy and King Rat Audition

CHARACTER NOTES:

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.

Percy the Pest Controller is an annoying little man on a mission to uphold the rules and regulations of his trade.

A London Street at Night.

(King Rat Enters)

King Rat Are you lot still hanging around? Not sure why. Oh, I get it, you think that that stupid country yokel Dick Whittington is going to make good. Well, you're wrong! If that brainless Cockney Fairy thinks her boy will be able to defeat me, she's got another think coming. I've got a plan to fix her little hero and send him straight back to the Buxton backwater he came from. Soon I'll control London town and nobody will be able to stop me! Don't you just love me?

(Two rats bring Percy on stage)

King Rat Oh, look what my darling rats have caught!

Percy Please don't hurt me!

King Rat It's Percy Prigsworth, the Pest Controller. Well, Percy, you don't look so tough now, do you - without your traps and your poison?

Percy Well, we don't actually use the term 'poison' any more. With modern elimination methods ...

King Rat *(Shouting into his face)* Will ... you ... SHUT UP!!!

Percy Yes, King Rat.

King Rat I see you've met Sly and Fang? They belong to my new breed of rats. Not so easy to get rid of.

Percy They **are** big!

King Rat And they've got extra sharp teeth. *(To a small rat)* Show him your teeth, Fang.

(Fang opens his mouth)

Percy Aaargh! What are you going to do with me?

King Rat Nothing. That's if you co-operate, Percy.

Percy Co-operate? How? You do realise I work for the council? I mean there are certain rules ...

King Rat *(Mimicking)* "There are certain rules"! There are NO rules in my world, Percy. Do you understand?

(Percy nods)

So if I ask you to do something, whatever it is, you say 'yes'.
Capisce?

Percy W-w-what do you want me to do?

King Rat Something so simple that even you should be able to manage it. I want you to be my spy.

Percy Do I have to?

King Rat No, you don't have to.

Percy Good.

King Rat But if you don't *(Grabs him)* I'll cut you up in little pieces and fry your liver to feed my rats.

Percy Oh. Then it will be my pleasure. Who do you want me to spy on?

King Rat On a bozo named Whittington: newly in the employ of Alderman Fitzwarren.

Percy Oh yes, I think I've seen him about.

King Rat I want to know how the little jerk is getting on.

Percy Yes, King Rat.

King Rat And I expect to hear from you every day.

Percy Of course, King Rat.

King Rat So, what are you waiting for? Go!!

(Percy runs off)

King Rat Oh I'm such a bully. But I love it. *(He laughs maniacally)* Don't
you just love me?