

York Maze Phantomime VI: Crow White

Opening song (This is the Greatest Show):

Ladies and Gents this is the moment you've waited for
It's cold in this barn, the damp is coming through the floor
But this is nothing scary, that's a promise we'll ensure
The stage is prepared, so now is the time, the York Maze annual Phantomime

York Maze is the place to be this Halloween
For the finest Phantomime you will have ever seen
Assuming, that is, that you have never seen a
Phantomime before as we have never seen one either

It's silly, it's nonsense, it's a load of cobblers
It's drivel, it's piffle so don't throw a wobbler
It's nothing that we care to take too seriously.....

So tell me do you want to go
Where the pumpkins are free to carve
And the food will help to prevent you starve
It's truly Spooktacular, like count Dracula
Oh this is the greatest Show!!

Baroness: Yes yes, that's quite enough of that thank you. It's not a musical you know. And you're not here to enjoy yourselves you know. Yes, you will soon regret coming to sit in this barn because this year I am not a happy baddy! After years of establishing my mean credentials as the evil Baron von Percy I have, for some inexplicable reason, been cast this year as Baroness von Percy. Do they not realise that I only ever play the same character because that is all I can do? Never mind, that will not be the only change because this year I am finally going to win in my mission to get rid of all of you meddlers from York Maze. Oh yes I will.....

Well you'll have to wait and see won't you. I believe that this year I can achieve the unachievable, for you see I am in fact the fairest of them all. Isn't that right Magic Mirror.

Mirror appears! Possibly speaks with Cornish accent?

Mirror: Sorry what was that? I was just admiring my own reflection. If that's actually possible for a mirror.

Baroness: I should have expected that from York Maze - a Cornish mirror. I was saying, mirror mirror from Cornwall, who is the fairest of them all?

Mirror: Oh right, that. Well, all things considered, it could possibly be that Roxanne Pallet. She certainly packs a punch.

Baroness: What? You're kidding, aren't you? She hasn't even got a face for the radio anymore!

Mirror: Oh right. Well, in that case I'd say it's most likely to be that lady there on the third row.

Baroness: What? Where. Really? That one with the teeth?

Mirror: Well she wouldn't be the fairest if she didn't have teeth.

Baroness: No no she can't be the fairest, she has a Butterface!

Mirror: A butterface?

Baroness: Yes, everything looks alright.....butterface! Now look, you're meant to say I'm the fairest, you stupid mirror. If you don't want to be smashed to smithereens you should take a good look at yourself!

Mirror: No, you take a good look at yourself.

Baroness sees herself in the mirror and recoils

Baroness: Listen never mind about the fairest. What is important this Halloween is who is the scariest of them all.

Mirror: Well that gentleman sat with the lady on the third row is looking pretty scary right now.

- Baroness: No that's just his best smouldering look. Don't look at me like that sir, just because I'm in a dress this year. Seriously why do I have to be a lady?!
- Mirror: You should think yourself lucky. How do you think it will look to have "Mirror" written on your CV. I fear it won't accurately *reflect* my talents!
- Baroness: What talents are they then? Certainly not for comedy!
- Mirror: (*drop Cornish accent*) No, not for accents either, I can't keep that up!
- Baroness: Now tell me I am the scariest of them all. You see it is the scariest that matters as I am due to frighten everybody away from the Maze this Halloween and finally claim this prime outer-York greenbelt (ripe for housing developments) for my own. So...?
- Mirror: Admittedly the sight of you in a dress is pretty disturbing but there are plenty more scary sights round here. It's not for nothing that York Maze Hallowscream won the best scare attraction in the UK last year.
- Baroness: Tickets still available!
- Mirror: No I'm sorry. The truth is that some children even find the loveable York Maze mascot Sweetie Yellow more scary than you!
- Baroness: Right, that does it. Sweetie Yellow must be disposed of this instant. I order you to lead her deep into the Maze, kill her and bring me back her heart as proof.
- Mirror: May I remind you that I am a mirror and, as such, my ability to lead Sweetie anywhere is somewhat limited. Besides, the Maze has all be harvested by now. Which makes you question why it's still called York Maze at Halloween. Shouldn't it just be called "York Field?" or York Pumpkin Patch? Or maybe...
- Baroness: Shut up! Shut up! I'll just have to get somebody else to do the deed. But who I wonder....?

Enter Sarah

Sarah: Hello everybody. Oh you can do better than that I said hello everybody. Hello Mums and Dads. Hello boys and girls. Hello that gentleman there. Ooh haven't you got a handsome voice. Shame about the rest of you. Let me introduce myself I am Sarah the Nanny.

Mirror: More like Sarah the Ninny.

Sarah: You talkin to me?! Oh hello Baroness. I didn't see you there. Have you been talking to yourself in the mirror again?

Baroness: Never mind me. What is it you actually do around here? There haven't been any children for you to look after here for years.

Sarah: I nursed you if you recall Baroness. And you're not too old to put you over my knee and give you a good spank if you're misbehaving.

Baroness: This year's script really has taken an unsavoury route.

Sarah: Besides I can't help it that all the children have mysteriously left the Maze Castle. Why even my own son Little Tommy ran away at birth and I've never heard from him since. (*over the top nose blowing*)

Baroness: Yes alright get on with it.

Sarah: Anyway I am doing something about it. I'm currently retraining to be a knight.

Baroness: Sarah Knight? That sounds highly implausible.

Sarah: It's not. I'll prove myself by battling with a dragon. You look like a dragon Missus....

Baroness: Listen I know how you can prove yourself. I need you take Sweetie into the woods, protect her and act as her bodyguard.

Sarah: Ooh no, I watched Bodyguard. That profession's far too risky for me.

Baroness: No it's simple. Look I've even prepared a perfect picnic of peppered and partially pickled pumpkin pate.

Sarah: Pardon?

Baroness spits at Sarah with every "p"

Baroness: I said I've prepared a perfect picnic of peppered and partially pickled pumpkin pate.

Mirror: You can say that again..

Baroness: If you insist. I've prepared a perfect picnic of peppered and partially pickled pumpkin pate.

Mirror: Bet you can't say it backwards.

Baroness: A Pate of pumpkin, partially pickled and peppered in a perfect picnic I've prepared.

Sarah: I think that's quite enough of that. My face has never been so clean.

Baroness: So will you take her?

Sarah: Oh go on then. What's the worst that can happen in a dark wood...at Halloween. Come along Sweetie, no time for waving to your adoring fans, we're going for a p p p pumpkin p p p picnic.

Sweetie enters and exits with Sarah

Baroness: Good Gooood. Little do they know I have poisoned that pate so that a dreadful fate awaits them when they eat it. However, just to make doubly sure they never return I am going to prove my scary credentials to you mirror by transforming myself into the scariest and potentially most damaging creature imaginable.

Mirror: What, Boris Johnson?

Baroness: Worse! For what do sweetcorns fear the most? Crows! And as it's Halloween I am going to disguise myself as a ghost crow. Yes, behold the power (and, in truth, the only pun that justifies this storyline) of.....Crow White!! Yes... *(sings Greatest Show)*; I'm everything I ever want, I'm everything I ever need, and I'm here right in front of you. Yes, I am the Greatest Crow!!

Baroness leaves laughing maniacally

Mirror: Ooooooh, this is terrible. And that was terrible. I must try to warn Sarah and Sweetie before it's too late. Otherwise they might think I'm behind this evil plan, and the last thing I want is for me to be framed! Ha! Framed. Geddit? Because I've got a frame around me...oh never mind.

Exit mirror

Voice Over: Later that day deep, deep in the Maze wood. Admittedly the scenery hasn't changed, but instead they've employed me to be the scene change announcer...

Music and Tubby enters

Tubby: Hello everybody. Fear not, the show is saved, I'm here on stage at last. Who here has been to a York Maze Phantomime before? You have? And you've come back for more? Is it raining outside or something? What do you think of it so far....? Well never fear for Yorkshire Man is here.

(flash the Yorkshire Man pants)

In actual fact this Halloween I'm a dwarf! It's just that I wore these pants over the summer and I haven't yet worked out how to get them off. Now, even though I'm playing a dwarf don't be mistaken that I'm actually small. No no no, I'm just standing much further away from you than you think. It's like when you are standing a long way away from the Maze plants and they look tiny. It's just one of those croptical illusions! Hang on a second, I think I hear people coming. Maybe I should hide.

Enter Sarah and Sweetie

Sarah: You know Sweetie love, there's something I've been meaning to ask. Why is it, whenever you are walking around greeting people at the Maze, that we never hear you talking?

Sweetie: *(voice from offstage - as irritating a voice as you can manage)* I don't really understand it myself. Farmer Tom has always asked me to remain quiet when I'm with the public but I think I've got a lovely voice.

Sarah: I see. Well, let's just have a nice quiet sit down to eat our pumpkin pate.

Tubby pops up

Tubby: Wait!

Sarah: What did you say love?

Sweetie: I didn't say anything.

Sarah: Must be the wind. Tuck in....

Tubby: Stop!

Sarah: Why do you want me to stop love?

Sweetie: I didn't say anything!

Sarah: Must be hearing things. Bon appetite.

Tubby: Woah there.

Sarah: *(to Sweetie)* Don't you "woah there" me, I'm not a horse. You're the one with the long face love.

Sweetie points behind Sarah. Sarah turns to see Tubby and they both jump.

Sarah: Who are you?

Tubby: Well, you may remember me from the Summer as the brand new epic superhero Yorkshire Man! (*putting on a flat cap*) The capped Crusader?

Sarah: Can't say I do.

Tubby: In that case you can call me Tubby.

Sarah: Can I? Why's that?

Tubby: Because that's what the script says. I'm a dwarf.

Sarah: Yes you are.

Tubby: Alright love, you're hardly Madame Maxime yourself.

Sarah: But are there not meant to be seven of you?

Tubby: Oh no there's only one of me. I'm one of a kind.

Tubby does some sort of flip/hand walking ending in crashing into the scenery

Sarah: It's probably just as well.

Tubby: Hey, I'm back by demand.

Sarah: Yes I know, you were very demanding. No what I meant was aren't there supposed to be seven dwarves. Have you eaten the others?

Tubby: No, it's just we couldn't afford a bigger cast. But never fear because joining us on stage, appearing for one show only we have the other six dwarves...

Drags children (and maybe one adult) from the audience to wear humanette puppets and human ventriloquist mask on adult

... Cheeky, Smelly, Whoopsie, Snotty, Gobby and, last but not least, (adult) Ugly!

Sarah: Ooh the stage is getting bit full now. I tell you what Sweetie love, why don't you run and play for a bit. Ooh I know, why don't you go and make some of that slime that you youngsters always insist on playing with.

Sweetie exits

Sarah: Ah that's better, so what do you dwarves all do out here?

Tubby: Well, we do all the jobs here at the Maze for Farmer Tom, but mainly we just like to sing and whistle, isn't that right everyone.

Sarah: So are you going to do that now?

Tubby: We certainly are. Oh another thing. We like to dance while we sing. Yes, you can't stop us from dancing. If you're struggling just follow my lead. Here we go, take it away.

Version of Hi Ho, with children operating feet of puppets

Hi Ho Hi Ho it's off to work we go
We pretend it's work and never shirk
Hi ho, hi ho hi ho
Hi ho, hi ho,
We'll climb the volcorn
We'll battle with the crow
Etc!!

Sarah: Weren't they brilliant, give them a huge round of applause. Now what did we do with the pumpkin pate.

The Fairy of the Mirror appears with a tinkle

Fairy: Tinkle tinkle tinkle.

Tubby: That's just reminded me I need a tinkle.

Fairy: I fear I may just be too late
But do not eat the pumpkin pate

Sarah: Who are you? Is this a scam?

Fairy: I the fairy of the mirror am!

Sarah: A mirror fairy? With a wing?
I've never heard of such a thing!

Fairy: Of course you have. I'm a wing mirror!

So heed my warning, don't touch the pate

Sarah: In that case I'll just have a latte.

Tubby: Is this a con-ven-i-ent time
To ask why we're talking in rhyme?

Fairy: I'm magic therefore that's the rule
Professional actor? More like fool!
Now steer clear of that York Maze castle
For the Baroness means to cause you hassle
And so I'll fly, adieu, anon
And with a "poof" the fairy's gone.

Exit Fairy. Small pyro? "poof" near to where Sarah is standing

Sarah: Steady! You could have given me a bit more warning. I could've
singed my nibblets!

Tubby: Well it looks as though you're stuck here with us dwarves now. And
you may be best avoiding that pumpkin pate to be on the safe side.

Sarah: To be honest since the children all left the castle I've been a bit
redundant as a nanny anyway. You can ah if you like.

Audience ahhh

Sarah: And I'm never going to be a proper knight.

Ahh

Sarah: And I've never known what letter comes after Q

Ahh

Sarah: Oh thanks very much.

Tubby: Listen Sarah, why don't you and Sweetie stay here and you can be a nanny to me and the other dwarves? We're all just lost children in search of a new mammy anyway.

Sarah: That sounds perfect I could open up a new woodland creche. Quick Tubby make the sign; The Pre-school Accredited Nursery for Tiny Smalls.

Tubby: *(Holding up sign saying PANTS)* That should do the job Sarah but how are we going to put it up?

Sarah: With a bit of wallpaper paste Tubby lad. But first we may need to get our overalls on. *(exits to put on overalls)*

Both exit to put on slosh outfits. Baroness as Crow White enters

Baroness: Aha, signs of activity. I must be in the right place. But alas no sign of them having eaten the pate yet. I will watch from a safe distance before swooping upon them for the final victory. Oh yes, nothing can defeat the Might of Crow White!

Baroness exits, Tubby and Sarah reappear

Tubby: So what do we need to do first Sarah?

Sarah: First we mix the wallpaper paste. So we need some wallpaper paste powder.

Tubby: Check *(throws some over Sarah)*. Whoops I didn't realise it was already open! Sorry about that..

Sarah: What?

Tubby: That *(throws some more)*. I really did not intend that *(throws some more)* to happen.

Sarah: Yes alright. And then we need some water.

Tubby: Check! Ah you see I was careful that time - I checked the lid was on! Although we could have just used the water from that leak over there.

Sarah: What leak?

Actor dressed as a leak comes on and throws water over them

Sarah: Oh, that leak. Now we need to mix it.

Tubby: I'm on it. But when do we know when it's properly mixed?

Sarah: It tends to be the right consistency when it won't easily fly off the brush.

Tubby: Right let's see then. *(tries to flick it off the brush and it flicks in Sarah's face)* No, not ready yet. *(mixes and repeats)*. Still not ready....

Sarah: Give it here, I'm sure it's fine. Right then, roll out the sign. Now just hold it there, under one of your chins, while I carefully put the paste onto the paper. Ah yes, it's your turn now!

Sarah brushes the paper all the way up and continues into Tubby's face. Repeat!

Tubby: Are you about done now?

Sarah: Yes love. Now we just need to lift it up, find the smoothing brush and then smooth it onto the wall. No it's still a bit lumpy.

Sarah tries to smooth the paper onto the wall while Tubby is holding it, with him being papered to the wall as well.

Tubby: That's because I was under it. Oh it's not very neat

Sarah: Never mind it'll do.

Tubby: Ooh I know what will brighten this place up. I have a very rare picture of that wonderful ghostbuster Kernel Kernel that we can

hang on a tree. This is incredibly valuable, this is the only example of this style still in existence.

Baroness as Crow White appears

Baroness: Caw Caw!

Tubby: Argh! (*Tubby breaks the painting over Sarah's head.*) What was that?

Sarah: Oh love you've ruined that very rare picture.

Tubby: Never mind, it was on a two-for-one.

Tubby gets another picture, Baroness appears from somewhere else

Baroness: Caw Caw!

Tubby: Argh! (*repeats painting over head*) What is that?

Baroness enters

Baroness: I'll tell you what it is. It is I, the ghostly Crow White and I am here to terrify you all. Yes, you can boo, yes you can hiss, but please don't poo and please don't.....miss the toilets if you need any further relief.

Sarah: Well go on then, are you going to scare us?

Baroness: Hmm, it appears you're not actually as scared as I had anticipated. However I have an ace up my sleeve.. You see I have the ghostly powers to send you into a trance like so. And once you are in the trance I can control you and force you to finally eat that pumpkin pate.

Tubby and Sarah snap into a trance, Fairy of the mirror appears

Fairy: It seems these two are heading for some truly dreadful fate
If only I could help and stop them eating pumpkin pate
But wait, this task will need all of the effort we can muster

Let's call for Kernel Kernel, he's the world's greatest ghost buster

Calling for Kernel Kernel (possibly with Ghostbusters song)

Fairy: Well done everybody. Now take it away Kernel, stop that Crow White.

Baroness: All very impressive but entirely fruitless I'm afraid. You see over the years I have developed an immunity to irritating corn people and so all you and your chums can do is watch while these two imbeciles eat the fatal picnic of peppered and partially pickled pumpkin pate.

Fairy: What's that Kernel? He says I bet you can't say that with your mouth full.

Baroness: Of course I can, watch (*takes a bite of the pate*). Here we go.....

Sarah and Tubby come out of their trance

Sarah: Ooh I've come over all wobbly. What's happening? (to Kernel) Sweetie, you've gone all butch!

Fairy: Look! Crow White has eaten the pate.

Baroness: What? No! How can I have fallen for such a childish trick. Water, I need water!! (*exits*)

Fairy: You've been saved by Kernel Kernel.

Sarah: Ooh, so heroic they named him twice.

Tubby: But where did you come from Kernel?

Kernel runs on the spot

Tubby: What's he doing?

Sarah: He's telling you where he came from; Runcorn!

Tubby: Ah, very cobservant of you.

Sarah: I would have thought it was cobvious!

Fairy: You've been cornditioned to spot these things!

Sarah: You had to take it one step too far didn't you! Thanks for your help Kernel. I know you're busy so off you pop-corn.

Kernel exits

Tubby: Hang on, what's happened to Crow White?

Baroness enters, wailing

Sarah: He never misses his cue you know, he's very good.

Baroness: He? May I remind you I'm a lady!

Sarah: Of course you are, sorry.

Baroness: Oh it's no use, I have brought this fate-worse-than-death on myself.

Sarah: So what actually happens to you when you eat that stuff anyway?

Baroness: Well it's a long painful process that begins with an irrational love of singing along with that irksome 70s supergroup Abba;

Baroness launches into a camp dance to Gimme Gimme Gimme

Sarah: Thanks for Cher-ing that!

Tubby: Cher! I see what you did there.

Sarah: Thanks, I don't think anybody else did.

Fairy: But surely that's not too dreadful a fate.

Baroness: It gets worse. You then go through the stage where you can't stop yourself from singing.....

"Baby Shark do do do do do do"

Fairy: Ok that is pretty disturbing but still not the worst thing to happen to you?

Baroness: If only it ended there. Unfortunately the final side-effect of the spell is that the consumer is then consigned to a lifetime of endless flossing.

Baroness flosses continuously!

Sarah: What, even if you're not very good at it?

Baroness: Oh I can't take the shame!

Fairy: Is there no way that this spell can be reversed.

Baroness: Well there is one way....

Sarah & Tubby: Yes?

Baroness: The only antidote to this dreaded fate is.....slime.

Fairy: Slime you say?

Baroness: But sadly we don't have any anywhere.

Sarah: That's where you're wrong *Ghostie Crow*. Oh Sweetie.

Sweetie enters with slime

Tubby: Have you made some slime Sweetie? What do you think girls and boys, shall we put *Crow White* out of her misery? Here goes.

Baroness gets slimed

Baroness: Oh thanks, I think. (*Removes disguise*) Well if you think I'm going to allow you back in my castle now you are sorely mistaken.

Sarah: Baroness, it was you all along. Well you know what, I think I prefer it out here in the woods to be honest.

Tubby: Same here. I thought all was lost when this Baroness threw me out of that castle as a baby but I'm happy here now with my six new friends.

Fairy: Of course back then you were known as Little Tommy.

Sarah: Son! Is it really you?

Tubby: Mamma Mia!

Baroness: Here we go again!

Tubby: Mama

Sarah: Son, how I have missed you!

They go to hug then realise they are still covered in paste

Fairy: It seems this is the perfect time
To end our little Phantomime.

Sarah: Yes it just leaves us to thank you all for watching this nonsense and
for us to announce that...

(baby shark tune) It's the end do do do do do do do etc.

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