

Phantomime V - Sweetie and the Beast

Enter Cutie

Cutie: Hello everybody, and welcome to another brand new York Maze Phantomime! With the reassuring familiarity of old faces and even older gags. My name is Cutie and I'm the local *Gaston (flexes muscles)*. To be honest I'm really just here to look cute and entertain the crowds at York Maze this extra long Halloween half-term. Yes, we're open over two half terms this year, and as we all know; two halves makes a whole....lot more work for us here at the maze! Now then, as it's panto do you think you can welcome me whenever I come on stage? I'm going to come on and shout "Here's Cutie" and I want you to shout back "What a Beauty". Do you think you can do that? Let's try....

Excellent! Oh if only one person thought I was a beauty. You see I'm in love. (*Encourage the audience to Ahhhh*) Ooh, I suddenly feel like a dentist! Yes you see I love Farmer Tom's niece, Sweetie, but she never seems to notice me. (*another Ahhh*) Ooh yes you need fillings Madam! But wait, here comes Sweetie's mother now.

Enter Abi

Abi: Howdo. Welcome to York Maze this Halloween. Are you all having a lovely time? Excellent....well we'll soon change that. Now even though it's Halloween there's nothing to be scared of in this barn.

Cutie: Says you in that costume!

Abi: (*hitting Cutie, then to audience*)
Not for you anyway! You see it's just the evenings that get scary round here with all kinds of gory, grisly and gruesome....drunk teenagers! Allow me to introduce myself; I am Dame Abifabbydabbydoodah and I am the sister Farmer Tom never knew he had. I've worked here for so long - you wouldn't have thought it with these youthful looks would you - that I've forgotten what it is I actually do! Nevertheless, I live here, with my daughter Sweetie,

in "Castle Tassel" - it's basically the same set we've always used, it's just been zhushed up a bit.

Cutie: Yes, there's never a hassle in Castle Tassel!

Abi: Seriously, who gave you a speaking part this year?

Cutie: Sorry, it's just I'm babbling because I'm scared about seeing your beautiful daughter again. Whenever I see her I start to fidget and go into a spin.

Abi: Ooh you great Fidget Spinner - yes it's an up to date script!

Cutie: Seriously though, whenever I'm around your daughter I become a big old scaredy pants.

Abi: Don't be daft. You'll never be big. Or old. Listen don't worry Cutie. I'll help you.

Cutie: You will?

Abi: Yes, afterall you're like the son I never had.

Cutie: But you do have a son.

Abi: What, Big Stuey? Yes yes but he's suave, charismatic and macho, no no you're like the son I *never* had.

Cutie: But I'm scared.

Abi: Well it is Halloween so it's good to face our fears.

Cutie: What are you afraid of Abi?

Abi: Me? Oh well I'm not really scared of anything; only spiders, monsters.....*(goes into audience and lists off characters that she sees in fancy dress, screaming when she sees each of them, ends in the lap of a Dad)*...but most of all I'm scared of being alone hello sir!

Cutie: Er...Abi?

Abi: Don't be afraid sir. They don't call me the Beyonce of Badger Hill for nothing. Uh oh uh oh uh.... uhoh, there goes my hip again. I tell you, my hip's been out more times than I have this year.

Cutie: Where is your daughter now?

Abi: What? Oh yes, back to the plot (*mimes "call me!" to Dad*)...well, as chance would have it I think I hear my daughter coming right now.

Enter Sweetie

Sweetie: Hello everybody. Hello Mother.

Abi: Hello daughter of mine.

Sweetie: Hello Cutie.

Cutie: Er, I...erm....ooooh....er...

Sweetie: Are you alright Cutie.

Cutie: Ah....er.....fifteen hundred polar bears!

Sweetie: Pardon?

Cutie: I was just trying to think of something to break the ice! (*Puts bucket over his head and spins around in embarrassment*)

Abi: Don't mind Lord Buckethead over there, he's just having a funny turn. You see as it's Halloween we were just discussing what scares us.

Sweetie: Oh Mother don't. My biggest fear is that one day I'll get found out.

Abi: What, about the not being able to act thing? I told you love, it's pantomime, it doesn't really matter.

Sweetie: No Mother, I mean about the fact that when I was younger I accidentally ate a magic rotten maize plant and it turned me into giant Sweetcorn and that I have only managed to reverse the spell and keep my human form in the darkness of the barn but that whenever I venture into daylight I turn back into a corn and that you and I are the only people who know this secret.

Abi: Oh, that.

Sweetie: Oh come on mother. Don't pretend you've forgotten. That's the reason why I always try to avoid daylight.

Abi: Of course, I had wondered why you always looked so pasty.

Sweetie: ...and the reason why you started calling me Sweetie.

Abi: Oh right. I thought it was because, as a child, that was all we ever heard you say; *(spoilt child voice)* "Sweetie, sweetie, sweetie"

Sweetie: I've almost forgotten what my real name actually is.

Abi: Oh I haven't, you had a beautiful name; Belle. I prefer Belle to be honest. It has a better ring to it! Yes, I still remember when you were a baby, Belle!

Sweetie: I think I'll have to stay as Sweetie now Mother. And always keep myself hidden in the dark.

Abi: Yes daughter dear, although a little bit of electric light won't affect you will it?

Sweetie: No it shouldn't.

Abi: Oh that's good *(pulls switch on Cutie's bucket and it turns on like a standard lamp.)*.

Cutie: *(Removing bucket)* Woah! I feel a little light headed!

Enter the Baron

Baron: Silence pathetic mazelings

Abi: I didn't say anything!

Sweetie: Only because you forgot your line again.

Baron: I am Baron Von Pearcy....

Abi: Oh yes, I thought I recognised you.

Baron: ...the most fearsome villain ever seen in a Phantomime....

Sweetie: That's not saying much, I've never heard of any other Phantomimes.

Baron: ...and this year I'm madder than ever.

Cutie: Really? Why's that?

Baron: Because I've had to wait in the wings until Page 4! Listening to this drivel about what scares us at Halloween. Well, let me tell you, there's nothing that scares me, apart from the fact that no one else will employ me so I'm cursed to return here every year.

Sweetie: Oh yes. This is your sixth year of The Phantomime isn't it. You'll soon be catching up with that Berwick Kaler!

Cutie: Who?

Abi: Never heard of him.

Baron: *(To Cutie)* And who might you be?

Cutie: Well, I *might* be Gaston!

Abi: Except you're not.

Cutie: Except I'm not. In that case I'm just plain old Cutie.

Abi: If you'll pardon the oxymoron.

Cutie: Who are you calling a moron?

Baron: (to Sweetie) And you are....

Sweetie: I am what?

Baron: What is your name?

Sweetie: Oh, I thought you were going to were going to tell me something; you know like; you are an amazing actress or you are integral to the scene or...

Baron: No I was simply requesting your name but I've come to the conclusion I have no interest in knowing it.

Abi: Don't you talk to Farmer Tom's niece like that.

Baron: His niece eh? And what are you called this year.

Abi: I am Dame Abifabbydabbydoodah, but you can call me Abi for short.

Baron: And what's Cutie short for?

Abi: Because he didn't eat all his greens!

Baron: Look this type of banter is clearly beneath me so I'll keep it brief.

Abi: That'd be a first!

Baron: I need this castle in order to build the finest soapbox known to man so that I can enter, and win, next year's Micklegate Soapbox Run. I therefore need you to all remove yourselves from this castle immediately.

Sweetie: But I can't leave Castle Tassel. I need to stay indoors for...health reasons.

Baron: I'm sorry but if you don't leave immediately I will be forced to dispose of you in a gruesome manner so that I can create my mean lean racing machine here . You see I am due to take delivery, any minute, of a rather classy chasis.

Abi: A what?

Baron: A classy chasis. I've acquired it from the distinctly sassy Shirley Bassey.

Cutie: So you bought a classy chasis from the sassy Shirley Bassey?

Baron: That's right, and it's arriving in a parcel from Basel direct to Castle Tassel.

Abi: Ooh, Cahhstle Tahhssle, you're not from round here are you! So, just to recap, you bought a sassy classy. No hang on. You got a parcel chasis from, no that's not it either.

Baron: Oh for goodness sake, it's quite simple. I've bought a classy chasis from the sassy Shirley Bassey in a parcel sent from Basel to the Castle decked in Tassels.

Abi: I see. I think.

Cutie: Well we're not going anywhere!

Sweetie: Well said Cutie

Cutie goes into a Fidget Spin

Baron: What if I were to tell you that there is a Special Halloween Bake Off being filmed at my own castle deep within the Maze and that they are still looking for volunteer bakers.

Abi: Well I'd say, implausible as that sounds, I'd be tempted.

Baron: Very well; there's a Special Halloween Bake Off being filmed at my own castle deep within the Maze and they are still looking for volunteer bakers.

Abi: This is too good an opportunity to miss Cutie, let's go and bake our special Pumpkin Cake. Come along Sweetie.

Exit Abi and Cutie

Sweetie: But mother, you can't trust this Baron!

Baron: Too late missy. They are already unwittingly falling into my trap. I wanted them out of the way so that I could reveal the entirety of my dastardly plan. You see I have been keeping, deep within my castle, a Hideous Halloween Beast whom I plan to unleash on you and your Maze friends unless you agree to go forever.

Sweetie: You don't scare me. You freak me out a little bit but you don't scare me.

Baron: Oh but I will for I am now finally ready to bring this Beast out into the open to frighten the living daylights out of all of you. Behold my Hideous Beast. Come on then, don't be shy...

Enter The Kernel, bound by a rope

Sweetie: Is that it?

Baron: Yes admittedly he's not truly terrifying just yet but that shouldn't take long. You see he has been kept in solitary corn-finement for many years now, reared on nothing but maize plants. That may account for his disgusting appearance; afterall, as they say, you are what you eat!

Sweetie: I wouldn't say giant corns are necessarily terrifying.

Baron: Some children certainly think they are! I have also brought him up on a strict TV diet of nothing but reruns of Love Island so that he has now completely lost any sense of reality; Hashtag muggy, hashtag grafting, hashtag 100% my type on paper.

Sweetie: You've no idea what you're saying have you?

Baron: Not a clue no. But now I believe I can brainwash him to turn this corn into a Cereal Killer!! All I need to do is teach him how to be baaaad. What I could do with are some baaaad children who can help me. Who here is baaaad?

Invites 2 or 3 children up. Example questions:

*Let's see how bad are you?
What's baddest thing you've done? (Running through wheat fields?!)
Do you always leave the top off the toothpaste?
Do you get out the bath to have a wee?
Do you always do as you're told?
Can you pull a really baaad face at Sweetie over there?
Can you show the Kernel how to be bad?*

Excellent, give them a huge round of applause. So Kernel what do you think. Can you be my truly terrifying beast?

Music; Kernel turns around and gets covered in beast-like material!

Excellent! You are now officially rotten to the core! Now then, your first job is to carry her off to your lair!

Kernel covers Sweetie in a sheet and tries to pick her up but struggles.

Sweetie: *(lifting sheet)* Would it be easier if you just tied me up and I walk with you?

Kernel gives thumbs up then uses the rope to tie her up.

Sweetie: Well at least this sheet will prevent me from showing my true ugly form but however am I going to escape?!

Baron: Go Beast, lock her up and terrorise the rest of York Maze. *(Kernel walks into the set)* but mind the set as you go.

Sweetie: Here, I'll help you. You'll never get away with this Baron.

Baron: I believe I already have! *(Encourage boos)* Boo all you like, I love the booze. *(swig from hip flask)* You see it gives me a boost! Time to break the good news to Abi and Cutie!

Baron exits

Enter Cutie, followed by Abi, wearing aprons and chefs hats.

Cutie Here's Cutie ("*What a beauty*"). So what's the plan Abi?

Abi: The plan is to make my fabulous pumpkin cake to win the Bake Off Halloween special and to make as little mess as possible, but just in case help me with this sheet.

They unravel a tarp sheet over the stage

Cutie: OK so what do we need first?

Abi: Eggs of course. Here catch. One, two, three...

Cutie catches and starts to juggle the eggs.

Cutie: Arrgh, I don't think I can keep this up much longer.

Abi: Pass them here then.

Cutie throws them to Abi who catches them and puts them in the bowl

Cutie: That was dangerous Abi, we could have cracked an egg.

Abi: You can't bake a cake without cracking an egg Cutie

Cutie: I know but....

Abi: ...and besides, these aren't real eggs look;

Abi taps an egg on Cutie's head then bounces it on the floor.

Cutie: Oh I see, how clever...

Cutie copies and cracks a real egg on Abi's head

Abi: Except that one of course!

Cutie: Oops, sorry! The things you'll do for a yolk!

Abi: Never mind, go and get some flour.

Cutie: Right you are, flour.

Cutie falls through cupboard onto crashmat offstage and immediately appears onstage with a flower.

Abi: Cutie are you alright?

Cutie: *(Entering)* Sun Flower!

Abi: No, not sunflower, I want some flour.

Cutie: Oh right! Some flour coming right up.

Cutie repeats falling through and entering with some flour

Cutie: Some Flour!

Abi: Marvellous. Is there enough?

Cutie: Yes, although you might want to remove that spider.

Abi: SPIDER?!

Abi squeezes the flour bag and it puffs over Cutie

Cutie: Well you might not have enough now!

Abi: Never mind, we'll put these in the bowl and then we'll pour in the corn oil.

Cutie: Does Corn oil come from corn?

Abi: Of course it does.

Cutie: So what does baby oil come from then?

Abi: Not sure! Ooh look at that.....

Cutie: Let's see..

Cutie looks too closely at the pouring of the oil (Abi pouring from a height) and gets it poured over him.

Abi: I said look at it, not bathe in it! And finally we need a pumpkin.

Cutie: Ooh ooh, I've got one just here (*entering with a turnip*)

Abi: That's not a pumpkin, you Turnip!

Cutie: What is it then?

Abi: Well, it's a turnip. Never mind it'll have to do. Right, come on, let's throw it in, give it a stir (*spraying them both with liquid*), pop it into the oven (*puts the bowl in the middle window*), wait for the ping...

..and there we have my special pumpkin cake (removing a pumpkin from the window).

Cutie: Wow, it looks just like a real pumpkin!

Enter Baron

Baron: How very impressive and yet completely pointless, you see I'm sorry to report that Bake-Off's off.

Abi: Off?

Cutie: Off?

Baron: Off!

Abi: Off-fer crying out loud. I baked a cake and everything.

Cutie: Everything?

Abi: Well alright just baked a cake but that's not the point.

Baron: That is in fact the least of your worries. You see you may find that your darling Sweetie has been captured by a Hideous Beast. You won't see her again unless you quit this castle and the entire Maze immediately. This time I do believe I have won. I'll give you two

minutes to pack up your things while I go and have a bounce on the new improved bouncy pillow! *(laughs and exits)*.

Cutie: Abi, this is terrible.

Abi: I thought it was rather good actually.

Cutie: No not the cake, this news. We must try to rescue Sweetie.

Abi: Yes indeed, but how?

Cutie: The Baron mentioned his own castle hidden deep in the Maze surrounded by maize plants. Perhaps we should start there.

Abi: Yes, good but we'll have to go in disguise. Perhaps we should go dressed as something corn-related!

Cutie: OK, I'll find a costume and I'll meet you at the Baron's castle.

Cutie exits.

Abi: Oh right fine, leave me to clear up as usual! Honestly, York Maze just can't get the staff these days!

Abi clears tarp and exits

Corn/maize sheets draped over the castle walls!

Enter Baron, Sweetie and Kernel

Baron: So, my dear Sweetie, this is where I have kept the Beast hidden away for many a year; An uncannily identical castle (if only we could afford proper scene changes) but hidden deep within the Maze field.

Sweetie: I think you're barbaric keeping the Kernel cooped up in this castle.

Baron: Far from it, you see this Beast is not only free range but he is also corn fed! It is you my dear who will be locked up forever. *(Opening trap door)* Take her to the dungeon Beast!

Sweetie: Do you really think we're going to fit down there?

Baron: Good point. Better take her to the tower instead!

Kernel and Sweetie exit

Baron: Now I suspect that those halfwitted bakers will be trying to rescue her at some point so I will keep a beady eye out to see if I can spot them. Yes there's no way they will find their way past me! *(Abi has come on dressed as a maize plant and is stood next to the Baron)* Woah! These Maize plants do grow fast!

Baron exits

Enter Cutie, wrapped in a cloak

Cutie: Here's Cutie....Has anybody seen Dame Abi?

Possible she's behind you/Oh no she isn't routine?

Abi: Boo!

Cutie: There you are Abi, I didn't recognise you.

Abi: I said come as something corn-related so I came as a maize plant.

Cutie: I thought you sounded a little husky!

Abi: What have you come as?

Cutie: The only thing I could think of.....*(removing cloak to reveal costume)* a Lepre-corn!

Abi: That's not corn-related!

Cutie: It is...to be sure to be sure!

Abi: Where are we anyway?

Cutie: I'm not entirely certain but I think this is...*(pointing at the maize covered wall)*....Corn-wall!

Abi: No it's the Baron's secret castle of course!

Cutie: Of course it is.

Abi: Time for us to save Sweetie.

Baron enters

Baron: Not so fast!

Abi: Alright then; *(slower)* Time for us to save Sweetie.

Baron: It's too late I'm afraid. Sweetie is already locked up, look.

Sweetie appears above the SR flat, tied up.

Sweetie: It's no good Mother, Cutie, save yourselves while you can.

Baron: Not likely, it's time for my beast to finish you off. Beast, extinguish these irritants.

Kernel chases Abi and Sweetie, possibly swinging them off stage or just chasing from side to side - using cloak as a matador's in bull fighting?? Finally they have the idea to throw Cutie's cloak over his eyes so that he can't see where he is going

Abi: What shall we do Cutie?

Cutie: Here, throw my cloak over his head.

Kernel disappears off stage

Abi: Excellent, but now how do we rescue Sweetie.

Cutie: It's alright, I've always wanted to have a go at Ninja Warrior. All I have to do is "beat the wall, beat the wall" (etc). I'm coming to save you Sweetie. Here goes.

Cutie runs up and splats into the wall on the other side of the stage. He then exits, dazed and dizzy (to change into Sweetie costume!)

Abi: Ooh hard luck Cutie, Gary Barlow would still be proud of you.

Baron: Curses, my Beast is proving useless, but at least they can't reach my hostage! You will never find the door to that tower in a million years!

Kernel enters, still covered in cloak

Abi: Oh yeah, well that does it, I'll just have to beat the Beast into submission. I reckon he's all corn and no cob. Stick em up Beast, let's settle this man to man.....I mean, woman to corn!

Sweetie: No Wait. I'm not actually stuck. It seems the Beast didn't in fact tie up the ropes. Hang on a sec, I'll be down in a jiffy.

Baron: What? This can't be true!

Abi: I don't understand.

Baron: You buffoon Beast, you were meant to tie her up in tight knots.

Abi: What, with those gloves on?

Sweetie: *(Entering)* No, I think he didn't intend to tie me up. I think he's really a nice Beast. A nice Beast who just wants to be loved. Thank you Beast for being so kind.

Sweetie kisses the Beast. His covering is removed and he becomes friendly Kernel again.

Sweetie: You see, he's just the loveable Kernel. And you know what, I think he's the one for me.

Baron: What, a girl falling for a corn, how absurd!

Abi: I'm not sure how I'm going to break this to Cutie.

Sweetie: It's not that ridiculous. And I think Cutie will agree I'm not really his type. The time has come to show my real self. You see if I just open this window and let the daylight in.....

Sweetie exits and immediately Sweetie corn appears with Fran doing the voice over off stage

...you'll see that I'm actually a perfect match for the Kernel.

Baron: Oh for goodness sake, this is all a bit far fetched! Still perhaps it's time I hid (*exits*)

Abi: Oh Sweetie love, is that really you?

Sweetie: It's me Mother. I'm finally happy to be myself, now that I've found my mate.

Abi: Are you sure, I mean he hasn't really said anything himself. In fact why is it, Kernel, that over all these years we've never actually heard you speak?

Kernel high pitched squeaky voice done by Baron offstage

Kernel: Well, I can't understand it myself really. I think I've got a lovely voice but Farmer Tom has always wanted me to be a silent character!

Abi: Ah right, now I see why. But do you think this could be a happy ending for you and my Sweetie?

Kernel: Oh yes, I think she's right grand. In fact, could we celebrate our love by performing a dance?

Abi: Er, yes of course but for that we would need music, and to help us with that we would need a helper or two. You'll do sir, come up here for me.

Puts on human ventriloquists mask, Baron voices him from backstage

Abi: So how are you feeling, comfortable enough?

Man: Oh yes, very comfortable indeed, I was destined to be onstage and I'm really going to make the most of this.

Abi: Are you sure? It's just your bodylanguage is suggesting you're a little uncomfortable with this.

Man: Not at all, not at all, I was born for this moment.

Abi: Marvellous so what are you going to do exactly?

Man: Wouldn't you like to know.

Abi: Yes I would actually, in fact I bet you're dying to know as well!

Man: Well, I plan to perform one of my favourite songs for you.

Abi: You're going to sing?

Man: Yes I am!

Abi: That's great, do you need anything before you start.

Man: Well yes actually, you see this is a duet so could you please choose somebody to sing it with me?

Abi: Yes certainly, just wait there a moment.

Select lady and puts mask on. Fran to voice from backstage.

Abi: Ok so have you sung a duet together before?

Woman: No we haven't, in fact I've never met him before!

Abi: Oh really, that's a bit awkward.

Woman: Not at all, I think he's rather dishy actually.

Abi: Wow, is it possible we have more romance blossoming on this stage?

Man: I'll say, I have actually already admired this lady while we were cueing to come into the show!

Woman: Oooh, cheeky!

Abi: This is exciting. So are you looking forward finding out what song you are going to sing for the corns to dance to.

Woman: Ohh yes I can't wait. In fact I may even have a bit of a dance myself!

Abi: That would be great. So are we ready?

Man: You bet we are. Just follow me love.

Woman: To the end of the world!

Abi: Hit it!

They perform to "You're the One that I Want" while the corns dance.

End of song; Kernel brings the Baron out from where he has been hiding

Abi: Haven't they been brilliant sports, let's give our two singers a huge round of applause. So I guess all that needs to be done is some sort of punishment for the Baron.

Baron: What? Really? Must we? Unhand me you oaf!

Abi: What shall we do to him this year everyone? What's that? Give him a wedgy?!

Cutie enters.

Cutie: What have I missed?

Abi: Not much to be honest, but you are here just in time. Here, you grab that side and I'll pull on this one. I should say, don't try this at home!

Abi and Cutie stretch the elastic of Baron's pants to either side of the stage.

Baron: What are you doing? Woah, no, let go of me!

Cutie: What was that?

Baron: I said let go of me at once!

Abi: If you say so!

Elastic twangs back onto the Baron!

Baron: Oooh, just you wait till next year Mazelings!

Abi: Well that just leaves us to say thank you so much for watching and have a fabulous rest of your day at York Maze. Bye for now!!