The Original Script

Mother Goose

as presented at

The Pavilion, Worthing

Saturday 2nd February, 1963

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The Cast



Hit
David Ashton



Miss
Tony Richardson



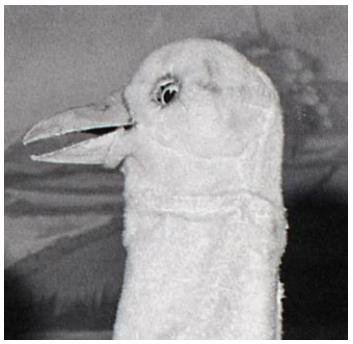
Fairy
Pamela Ashton



Queen of Gooseland
Peggie Jordan



Mother Goose
Derek Bell



Gertrude (the Goose)
Barry Wood



Madame Za-Za
Diana McNeill

The Script

SCENE I

The lane near the Village

Opening Chorus with Dance.

\- I wonder who those strangers are, coming along the lane ?

\- It isn't often we see any new faces in these parts.

\- Well, we will soon find out what they want.

(Enter Brokers men, furtively P.S.)

Crowd - Good morning.

(Assistant jumps up into arms of Brokers Man. Both look scared)

\- We only said, good morning.

(Brokers man drops assistant.)

Broker - Oh - er - good morning.

Assistant - (from floor) Morning.

\- Can we help you ?

Broker - Yes, you can. We want to find Mother Goose. You see we are Brokers Men.

Crowd Oh, dear.

Broker - Do you know where she lives ?

(Most of Crowd turn to right as if to point that way but steps forward.)

\- You are going the wrong way, I'm afraid. You must go back along the lane, then through the wood - it is a very long way. You had better start straight away.

Assistant- Oh, my poor feet - you said it was a simple job.

Broker - You are always grumbling about your feet. I can't think why you asked me to take you on as my assistant.

Queeners

\- Why did you send them that way. Mother Goose's cottage is just over there (points O.P.)

\- We can warn her the Brokers men are after her. Come on - lets look for her. We will go in groups.(All exit. Enter Fairy O.P. with attendants and Queen of Gooseland P.S.)

Fairy - Poor Mother Goose. She is in trouble again.

Queen The reason she is so poor is because she helps so many others, so we must do something to help her.

Fairy But she is too proud to accept help.

Queen - Well then, we must arrange it so that she doesn't realise she is being helped. Supposing she found a poor helpless creature outside her cottage, what would she do ?

Fairy - She would take it in and look after it of course.

Queen - And supposing afterwards it suddenly produced gold for her.

Fairy - That is a very good idea. Who were you thinking of sending.

Queen - Gertrude, the Magic Goose. She will be splendid.

Fairy - She will indeed. Mother Goose was given that name, because she is so very fond of Geese.

Queen - I will go to Gertrude now to give her some instructions, then bring her to the cottage.(Exit. Dance of Fairies. Enter Mother Goose O.P. Exit Fairies.)

M.Goose - Do you know I could have sworn I saw some fairies just then - I couldn't have done though could I ? Did I (appealing to audien Oh, get away with you. You know, I was just trying to work out how I am going to stretch my money to pay everyone. I am terribly behind with my rent, and the Squire has threatened to seize my furniture and evict me if I don't pay soon.

Hand-up gag

Colin - Mother - thank goodness we have found you.

M.Goose - What is the matter son.

Colin - met us and told us the Brokers men are looking for you.

Jill - Yes they will seize your furniture and turn you out of your cottage.

M.Goose - Oh, dearie, dearie, me. I had better go home and barricade myself in (She lifts her skirts and exits O.P.)

Colin - Poor old mum. I wish I could give her more money, but an apprentice gets very poor pay.

Jill - It won't be long before you finish your apprenticeship, and then everything will be all right.

Colin - Yes, but in the meantime it looks as if she is going to lose the old home. (Lones into song then Exit)

(Enter Queen of Gooseland with Gertrude.)

Queen - Come along Gertrude. This is a very important mission for you.

(Gertrude nods head.)

Queen - You know what you have to do.

(Gertrude nods again)

Queen - Good. The cottage is just along the lane. Look as weak and helpless as you can. Good luck. (Gertrude slowly exits.) Mother Goose will be rich very soon.
(Exit) TABS
(Enter villagers, then Brokers men (P.S.) who are very weary)

Brokers - I thought you said Mother Goose's cottage was through the wood.

- Mother Goose ? Oh, I thought you said Mother Goat. She lives in the wood. Mother Goose lives in that house.(indicating O.P.)

Assist. - To think we walked all that way when we only needed to go a few yards.

Broker - Never mind. We have found the place now. Let's go and seize her furniture.

- You will have a job to do that, for she is expecting you.

Assist - I suppose you warned her while we were walking all those miles.

Broker - We will have to call in the Police if necessary. Come on. (Exit O.P.)

\- What a shame to worry her like that.

\- Mother Goose will probably be allright, because she always looks on the bright side.

(Song)
Front of Tabs. Policeman Dance.

SCENE II

Inside the Cottage.
Mother Goose is sorting her washing.

M.Goose. - Brokers men or no brokers men, I must get the washing done. Of course it is so much easier now that I have a washing machine How do you like it? That machine, and Sudso, the washing powder that gets out dirt that wasn't even there, and you really get your washing white. Look at this.....see how white Sudso has made it? It is really wonderful, because a fortnight ago when I bought it, it was red and blue. Now in goes theppwder and the clothes, now switch on. You've heard of the washing machine you need which doesn't need you ? Well, this isn't it. This machine needs me more than (topical remark) (There is a KNOCK at the door) I wonder who that is ....the brokers men I suppose.

VOICE OVER
MIKE - Help me, help me.

M.Goose - Whoever can it be.(Goes to door and opens it.Gertrude is outside Why you poor thing. Come in. (Gertrude enters.)Areyou hungry and thirsty ? (Gertrude nods) Then I'll see what I can find. What is your name ? (Gertrude whispers in M.Goose's ear) Gertrude ? Allright then, gertie, here is something for you (puts dish on floor, then notices Gertie is upset.) Why, what's the matter ? (Gertrude whispers something) Oh, you don't like being called Gertie. You naughty bird. You like the "rude" but. Now while you are eating that food, I will see if the washing is ready.(Goes to machine and opens it.) Well isn't that wonderful
(Knock off-stage. Gertrude exit P.S.)

Brokers Man (outside door) Come along Mother Goose. We know you are in so why not open the door, so we can have a nice quiet chat.

M.Goose No, certainly not.

(Cackling over Mike, and Golden Egg rolls on stage.)

M.Goose What on earth is that ?
Brokers Man We are coming in, Mother Goose.
(Banging on door. Door opens. Men fall into room)
Now, let's see what there is here of any value.(The two start examining furniture. Enter Jill and Colin.)

Colin - Mother, is everything all right ?

M.Goose - (with egg in her hand) Yes, son, don't worry.

Jill - Whatever is that you are holding ?

M.Goose - I don't really know. I just found it.

Colin - Let me see. Why, it is a golden egg.
(More cackling, and another egg.)

Jill - Look there is another.

M.Goose - Well, that settles these two. Here you are, my good men. This golden egg will pay all my debts.

Brokers - I'm glad about that. You look much too nice to be worried.

M.Goose - Oh, go on with you.
(More cackling, another egg.)

Jill - Where are all the eggs coming from ?

M.Goose - It must be Gertrude, although I don't really see.....
(Enter Queen of Gooseland.)

Queen - Gertrude is a Magic Goose, who lays golden eggs. You took her in when she was tired and hungry, so this is how she is re-paying you. She will continue to do so all the while you keep her happy.

Colin - That is fine, Mother. You will have no more worries about Brokers men.

Brokers Man I was hoping we might get better acquainted, now I won't get a chance to see you.

M.Goose - You take that egg to the Square with my compliments, young man. What a ~~happy~~ day this is -

Happiness Tree

SCENE III

Madame Ya-Ya's Fashion House Open with dance by assistants.)

Enter Madame.

Madame - That will do girls. Now run along and get on with your work. Mother Goose is coming in this morning, to see our latest collection, and we must have everything ready for her.

- It must be wonderful for her now that she can buy anything she wants.

Madame - No doubt. Unfortunately no matter what she wears she still looks a mess.

- She deserves her good luck.

Madame - I don't know anything about that. All I do know is she has money to throw away, and I am determined a lot of it shall land right here ! Now I particularly want her to see o ur latest model.

- But Madame, that won't suit her at all.

Madame - Never mind It is very expensive, and she won't know whether it suits her or not.(Exit.)

- What a shame to take advantage of such a kind-hearted soul.

- They are all making a fuss of Mother Goose just to get some of her money. (Enter M.Goose.)

M.Goose - Money - did I hear someone mention the filthy stuff.

All - Good morning.

Enter Madame.

Madame - Good morning dear Madame Goose. How chic we are this morning.

M.Goose - Are we ? Oh, you mean my titfer-tat. Yes, just a little thing knocked up for me.

Madame - It is so you

M.Goose - Oh, go on (Looks at herself in mirror.) M-m-m yes, I think I see what you mean.

Madame - Now we are all waiting to show you some of our latest models.

M.Goose - Oh, good. I want to look like one of those glamorous film stars.

Madame - You look just like a film star. (Away from M.G.) Donald Duck! (Back to M.G.) Now just make yourself comfortable and we will commence.

(Mannequin parade with appropriate remarks.)

Enter Colin & Jill.

Colin - Mother, surely you are not going to buy these things, are you?

M.Goose - Why not, my boy. They are very nice, aren't they Jill?

Jill - They are nice, but they are not right for you.

Colin - They are mean't for slender young girls.

M.Goose - Well ? Aren't I a slender young girl - well I'm a slender girl - a girl - oh well, I'm a female, so I shall buy the ones I like. Madame Ya-Ya has picked these models especially for me.

Colin - Don't you realise she is only after your money. You must be mad if you think these styles suit you.

M.Goose - How dare you speak to your poor Mother like that. You will see how smart I look at the party tomorrow night.

Colin - You have invited all the snobs for miles around to the party- what about your old friends? You haven't invited any of them.

M.Goose - I'm moving in different circles now - the people I used to know just couldn't mix with my new frinds.

Colin - I sometimes wish we had never seen Gertrude, for you are so different now.

M.Goose - Go home, you bad boy. You are upsetting my lovely morning. I don't want to hear any more about it.

Jill - Come along Colin. Lets go back to the Palace and see if there is anything we can do to help for tomorrow.

Colin - Very well, but I still think it is a shame our old friends are being left out of everything.

(Both exit)

M.Goose - Now Madame Ya-Ya is my party dress ready ?

Madame - Ah, yes, it is entrancing. If you come with me you can try it on.

M.Goose - I feel as excited as.....

~~Exit. Dance in front of Tabs.~~

goose in audience

Scene 4 : At Goose Palace

Enter Tony and Chris

TONY: What a party! Now they are all in there eating we can relax for a few minutes.

CHRIS: I never thought I'd be acting as footman to a crowd of swank-pots like that.

TONY: I can't understand why Sophia has taken up with a mob like that.

CHRIS: Sophia? Who do you mean? (TONY looks bashful). Why you must mean Mother Goose. I do believe you are sweet on the old girl.

TONY: What do you mean, 'old girl'. She is a fine figure of a woman in the prime of life.

CHRIS: Of course, of course.

(Audience participation or comedy patter here).

Chris exit. M. Goose, Colin and Jill enter.

M. GOOSE: Ah there you are - The guests will be coming out of the dining room any minute now. Is the orchestra ready to play for dancing?

TONY: Yes, everything is ready.

M. GOOSE: Good. It is a slap-up do isn't it?

Enter Chris and Gertrude

CHRIS: One of the villagers is at the side door asking to see you. He seems to be in great trouble.

M. GOOSE: Oh dear, what a nuisance. What will the dear Duchess think if I'm missing. I suppose I had better go. I'll get rid of him as quickly as possible.

Exit M. Goose.

COLIN: What a difference money has made to her. At one time she was ready to help everyone. Now she only wants her rich friends.

(Gertrude shakes head sadly)

JILL: And I rather think they only want her for her money.

Enter Guests

A : My dear, what a dreadful woman! That dress - and her make up! (GERTRUDE listening)

B : I know - but I'm running a big bazaar soon, and she will probably give loads of things - anything to try to climb the social ladder!

A : Social ladder - what a hope!

(they laugh and move to side)

C : This is an awful bore but one must pander to these new rich people. My husband is floating a new company, he needs someone with more money than sense.

D : What is that queer-looking bird doing here?

C : Hush dear. That is the creature that provides the golden eggs.

D : Oh. Come along you nice little dicky-bird. (Goes to stroke Gertrude who pecks at her) Oh you - you playful little thing.

(Enter M. Goose)

M. GOOSE: So sorry to have to leave you dear people. I just had a spot of bother to attend to.

D : Dear Madame Goose. What a wonderful person you are and what a delightful hair-style.

M. GOOSE: Do you like it? It brings out the likeness to (FILM STAR) doesn't it?

D : Oh but you are far more attractive.

C : You must tell me your make-up secret. It is so - er - so delicate.

COLIN: How Mother can believe them I don't know.

JILL: She will find them out soon Colin, don't worry.

D : We were just discussing your dear little pet.

M. GOOSE: Pet?

C : Yes, the goose over there (pointing). Oh, it has gone.

M. GOOSE: I wonder where Gertrude is.

(Enter Queen)

QUEEN: She has run away Mother Goose.

M. GOOSE: Why has she done that?

QUEEN: Because she is unhappy here. You used to be kind and thoughtful to everyone. Now you only want your new friends, so you have lost Gertrude.

B : Does that mean no more golden eggs?

QUEEN: Of course.

A : Come along. There is nothing here for any of us now.

M. GOOSE: Wouldn't you like to stay and dance? There is no need for you to miss the fun because I am sad about Gertrude.

D : Good gracious no. We don't wish to associate with a common ugly old woman like you.

(They exit)

COLIN: How dare you - (shakes fist after them)

M. GOOSE: I thought they were my friends.

JILL: I'm afraid it was your money they wanted.

QUEEN: Gertrude was your friend when you had nothing, but you liked the snobbish people best. Now if you want her you must search the four corners of the world. (Exit)

M. GOOSE: (To Tony and Chris) I suppose you will go now?

TONY: No we will stay with you. Perhaps we can help you find Gertrude.

M. GOOSE: Thank you very much.

(Tony and Chris whisper and exit. M. Goose picks up mirror)

They all said how nice I looked and I believed them, but what they said when they left is right - I'm an ugly old woman.

JILL: No you are not - to us you are dear, kind Mother Goose.

~~(song?)~~

COLIN: What a shame all this party arranged and no guests.

(enter Tony and Chris)

TONY: Oh yes there are. We have been to the village and brought back some of the boys and girls. Shall we bring them in?

M. GOOSE: Yes do.

(enter boys and girls)

BOYS AND GIRLS: Hello Mother Goose.

M. GOOSE: Hello boys and girls. Would you like to have a dance?

BOYS AND GIRLS: Rather.

TONY: Come on then. Let's have a ball.

(~~Madison~~ and Twist)

FRONT OF TABS - enter Mother Gocse

M. GOOSE: I wonder where I can find Gertrude. The Queen said I must look in the four corners of the world.

(enter Fairy)

FAIRY: Do you want Gertrude back for the gold she can bring you or for herself?

M. GOOSE: I want her back for herself - her friendliness. I don't care if she never lays another egg.

FAIRY: If you really mean that I will help you. To go to the four corners of the world would take a long time without magic powers, but I can show you East, North, South and West in a few minutes. Come with me.

(They move P.S. & EXIT

SCENE 5

Dances of 4 corners of world

FRONT OF TABS

M. GOOSE: I didn't see Gertrude in any of the lands we visited.

FAIRY: No you will have to go further to find her.

M. GOOSE: Further? Please, where else can I go?

FAIRY: Come to Gooseland with me. Perhaps when the Queen sees how anxious you are she will help you.

(Exit)

(Enter Tony and Chris)

COMEDY ACT about 3 mins.

~~or COMEDY SONG or CHORUS SONG~~

(Exit)

SCENE 6

DRAPES. QUEEN ON THRONE.

DANCES OF GOSLINGS AND GEESE.

CAROL: Your Majesty, Mother Goose is outside pleading for an audience with you.

QUEEN: I suppose she is trying to find Gertrude. I don't know whether she deserves to yet.

CAROL: Fairy is with her your Majesty.

QUEEN: Very well. Fairy would not be with her unless she thought she deserved help. Show them in.

(Carol exit and re-enter with M. Goose; Fairy follows)

M. GOOSE: Thank you, your Majesty, for granting me an audience.

QUEEN: Why do you wish to see me, Mother Goose.

M. GOOSE: I want to find Gertrude. I have learned my lesson and know my true friends now. Never again will I be a silly, vain old woman. Gertrude will never be unhappy because of my selfish behaviour, I promise.

(Cackling - then Gertrude enters goes straight to M. Goose)

FAIRY: Gertrude is very fond of Mother Goose.

QUEEN: Indeed she is, but how can I be sure Mother Goose will keep her promises.

FAIRY: Sudden wealth went to her head before, but I think she has learned her lesson that money cannot buy true friends or happiness.

(Mother Goose turns from Gertrude to Queen)

M. GOOSE: Please your Majesty, may she stay with me?

QUEEN: If she does, what will you do with all the gold?

M. GOOSE: Could half the eggs be given to any poor, deserving person I find? I would like to do that.

QUEEN: An excellent suggestion. Keep to it, and Gertrude shall stay with you always.

M. GOOSE: Oh, thank you, your Majesty.

(Move forward with Gertrude. TABS CLOSE)

And thank you dear Fairy. Come along, Gertrude, we can go home now. Isn't that wonderful.

(Song and Dance)

SCENE 7

Back Home

Enter Colin and Tony

COLIN: What is the matter? You do look worried.

TONY: I'm worried about your Mother. She hasn't been seen for days.

COLIN: Mother will turn up safe and sound. She always does.

TONY: I wouldn't like any harm to come to her.

COLIN: Why I do believe you are fond of her.

TONY: As a matter of fact I am, but she hardly notices me.

COLIN: You want to be more masterful - let Mother see who's boss - women like a man to be a bit domineering.

TONY: Do you really think so?

COLIN: Of course. Why don't you rehearse a bit. Pretend I am my Mother.

TONY: Oh alright. (slight swagger) Now - er - Sophia, how about us going out for a walk sometime?

COLIN: That's no good. Look, you be Mother and I'll be you.

TONY: Haven't I altered!

COLIN: Now. Well, Solphia, my dear. I want to marry you. Name the day and we will be a happy couple. You try now.

TONY: Well, er Sophia, er. I want to name you - marry the couple and we will have a very happy day - oh, that's all wrong.

COLIN: I'm afraid it is. Remember, you must be masterful.

JILL: (from O.P. door) Colin, I want you.

COLIN: Coming Jill. I must go. (exit)

TONY: Masterful, eh? Still it might be an idea.

(Enter Christopher P.S.

CHRIS: I've just seen Mother Goose and Gertrude.

TONY: That's wonderful. Where are they?

CHRIS: They are coming this way, so it shouldn't be long before they get here.

TONY: You know I'm feeling shy at the thought of meeting her.

CHRIS: You shy? - that won't be until Perry Mason loses a case!

(Enter M. Goose, Gertrude, children, Colin and Jill)

M. GOOSE: What a wonderful welcome you are giving us. It is grand to be among our friends again.

JILL: We were all very anxious about you, you know.

M. GOOSE: Were you, Jill? It is nice to know you missed me.

JILL: The village didn't seem the same without you, and Gertrude.

M. GOOSE: Come along, Gertrude, let the children make a fuss of you.

Sabs

(Children, Chris, Jill and Colin gather round Gertrude)

TONY: (clears throat) Er, well, my dear -

M. GOOSE: Now, I've something to say to you. We seem to get on very well together. How about us getting married.

TONY: No, I don't think so - I don't think I fancy being step-father to a magic goose.

M. GOOSE: Oh well, it doesn't really matter. We can still be friends.

COLIN: Mother, now you have returned safely, Jill and I are going to be married.

M. GOOSE: I hope you are going to have a white wedding.

JILL: Why of course.

(song) White Wedding

Sabs

(~~Exit all except~~ Tony and Chris) more forward

(Chorus song)

FINALE

Walk down