

Scene 2 - A Corridor in the Palace (Tabs or Frontcloth)

(Jack enters)

Jack:- Enjoying the show? Well never mind, it gets better as it goes on. Now that we're alone together I want you to do something for me. Will you? (Reply) I said 'Will you?' (Reply) That's better. Every time I come on I'll say 'Hi Gang' and I want you to say 'Hi Jack'. So you'll all be 'Hi-jackers'.

Shall we try it? I'll go off and come on again. Here we go.

(He exits and comes straight back on)

Hi Gang.

Audience:- Hi Jack.

Jack:- Have you all gone home? I couldn't hear you. You'll have to do better than that. We'll try it again.

(He exits and returns straight away)

Hi Gang.

Audience:- Hi Jack.

Jack:- Have you all got laryngitis? I want you to raise the roof with the noise. We'll give it one more try.

(He exits and returns straight away)

Hi Gang.

Audience:- Hi Jack.

Jack:- That's better. Now remember every time I come on I want you to yell that out, okay? (Reply) Now what's happened to that Nausea?

Nausea:- I'm here Jack (Offstage)

Jack:- I suppose I'd better give her a hand.

(He exits and he re-enters with Nausea carrying spinning wheel)

Come on Nausea, you can do better than that.

Nausea:- I can't, I've been working for seven days non-stop.

Jack:- Seven days? (They put down wheel)

Nausea:- Yes and you know what they say about seven days, don't you?

Jack:- No, what's that?

Nausea:- They make one week (weak). (She laughs at her own little joke)

Jack:- The only place you're weak is in the head.

(Nausea bursts into tears)

Oh not the waterworks again. Here use my hankie.

(He takes out enormous hankie with appropriate slogan on it. She takes it and blows her nose to suitable band accompaniment)

There, how do you feel now?

Nausea:- (Between weeps) You don't love me.

Jack:- Yes I do.

Nausea:- You don't care for me at all.

Jack:- Yes I do.

Nausea:- You think I'm plain and unattractive.

Jack:- Yes I do.

(Nausea bursts into tears again)

Jack:- I mean I don't. I think you're the best thing since the 'F' Plan Diet (or other suitable topical innovation).

Nausea:- Do you really?

Jack:- Of course I do, and you're so strong and healthy.

Nausea:- Am I?

Jack:- Yes, now give me a hand with the spinning wheel.

Nausea:- Where are we taking it?

Jack:- To the Palace incinerator to be burnt.

Nausea:- What a shame! It's such a lovely wheel isn't it?

Jack:- Yes and it's the only one left in the kingdom.

Nausea:- Then why burn it?

Jack:- You know what the Queen said - If all spinning wheels aren't destroyed within fourteen days - - - (He draws his finger across his throat and makes suitable noise. Nausea repeats action) Exactly, now let's get moving. Today is the last day.

(They lift it and start to carry it across stage. Charcoal Fairy disguised as old lady in hooded cloak enters behind them. She draws back cloak so audience can see who she really is. She also carries wand)

Charcoal F:- Ha ha ha. (To audience) Yes tis I, the Charcoal Fairy come to take my revenge on the King and Queen. By the time I've finished with them they'll wish their daughter had never been born. (She hisses at audience) Now to assume my disguise. (She dons cloak and hood). (In 'old lady' voice) Good morning my dears (To Jack and Nausea).

Jack:- (Putting down wheel and turning round) Good heavens it's Nora Batty (Or Hilda Ogden).

Charcoal F:- I am on my way to the land of Transylvania where I make my living spinning yarns. My own spinning wheel was recently stolen by thieves and I have nothing on which to spin my yarns.

Jack and Nausea:- Aw!

Charcoal F:- If I cannot make cloth, I cannot make a living.

Jack and Nausea:- Aw!

Charcoal F:- And without money I will starve.

Jack and Nausea:- Aw!

Charcoal F:- And I don't know what to do.

Jack:- Aw!

Nausea:- What about this spinning wheel Jack? Why don't we give it to the old lady?

Jack:- But to own a spinning wheel means certain death.

Nausea:- Not if she takes it out of the country.

Jack:- That's true and it's much better than burning it. Here old lady you can have this one.

Charcoal F:- Thank you my dears, you are generosity itself. I have a pony and trap outside.

Jack:- Then we will carry it for you. Come on Nausea. (Jack and Nausea start to move it in the direction they brought it on.)

Jack:- I feel like a coalman.

Nausea:- I don't, they leave dirty finger marks all over you.

Jack:- Come on, let's get it to the pony and trap.

(Jack and Nausea exit with wheel)

Charcoal F:- (Flinging back cloak) Ha ha ha, little do they know that they are helping to bring about the death of the infant princess, ha ha.

(She hisses at audience and exits. Dame enters from opposite side. She is wheeling a pram with doll in it)

Dame:- Hey did you see that? It was that Charcoal Fairy. I bet she was up to no good. I think we ought to hiss every time she comes on, don't you? Are you any good at hissing? Shall we have a practice? I'll pretend I'm the Charcoal Fairy and come on again. I want you to see how loudly you can hiss. (She exits and returns immediately looking evil. Audience hisses) That's not very good is it? There's more hiss in a leaking gas pipe. Let's give it another whirl. (She exits and returns immediately) That's an improvement but you can still do better. Let's give it one more try. (She exits and returns. Audience hisses) Good, that ought to frighten her.

I've just realised I haven't introduced myself, have I? My name's Lucy and do you know what my last name is? Yes, it's Lastic, so I'm Lucy Lastic. It's an unfortunate name isn't it? I'm always being blamed for things that go wrong. When the royal washing machine broke down, who got the blame? - Lucy Lastic. When the King lost his shorts playing football, who got the blame? - Lucy Lastic. And when the Queen made a spectacle of herself at the royal swimming pool, who got the blame? Yes, you've guessed it - Lucy Lastic. Never mind, as you're a friendly lot you can call me Lucy.

I'm nursemaid to the baby princess. I take her out for walks in this pram and look after all her needs. I'm going to sing you a little song about my job and you'll see just how busy I am.

Song:- 'My Name is Lucy Lastic' (Dame)

(Tune:- It's a Long Way to Tipperary)

Oh my name is Lucy Lastic,  
Royal Nursemaid, that's me.  
Though my methods are rather drastic,  
I'm the best there is you see.

(She takes 'baby' from pram)

I have brought up many babies,  
Bottle fed them too.

(She takes bottle from pram and feeds baby. A trick bottle can look as though it's emptying)

Everybody calls me Lucy Lastic,  
But Lucy to you.

(She puts back bottle and takes out nappie)

I have learned how to change a nappie,  
And I'll show you the way.  
That is how you can keep them happy,  
Every hour of the day.

(She is changing nappie and powdering behind)

Though it's not a bed of roses (Holds nose)

You will soon win through,  
Everybody calls me Lucy Lastic,  
But Lucy to you.