

Peare-Shaped

Characters:

Romeo
Juliet
Puck
Macbeth
Ariel
Witch
Hamlet
Othello
Lady Macbeth
Bear

Act 1 – Scene 1

(Curtains drawn. ARIEL stands out front centre stage, acting as a 'chorus'. [The following can be whispered by a cast member offstage if lines are forgotten – or not – to add humour.])

Ariel: 'Two households, both alike in dignity. In fair Manchester, where we lay our scene,'

(PUCK pulls Ariel through the curtain, which opens to reveal the WITCH centre stage, brewing a potion.)

Witch: Bubble, bubble, toil and trouble. *(Forgetfully)*

Something...something, head-shoulders-knees-and-toes?

Abracadabra!

(PUCK enters stage right.)

Puck: Hi witch.

Witch: Hey Puck, what brings you here?

Puck: Can you make love potions?

Witch: I certainly can. What for?

Puck: Romeo and Juliet, they're arguing again.

Witch: Still? Those two are even worse than *Benedict* and *Beatrice* *(The two look out into the audience, like in 'The Office' .)*

Witch: But I love them! I will certainly do that for you... but first, go offstage and come back on again.

Puck: *(confused)* 'Stage' ? What stage?

Witch: *(sighs)* Just go that way *(points offstage right)* and then come back.

Puck: Um...ok *(starts to go)*

(The witch remembers something.)

Witch: Wait!

(Puck stops and turns to her.)

Puck: What?

Witch: (*almost to herself*) I'm sure there was supposed to be something...chasing you.

(*Puck looks unsettled. The witch tries to remember, stroking an imaginary beard.*)

Witch: (*clicking happily*) Ah-ha! That was it! (*She whistles*)

(*A BEAR comes on stage left and chases Puck offstage right, who screams and runs cartoonishly. A couple of moments later Puck returns, comically dishevelled, crawling across the stage. Witch watches carelessly, still stirring.*)

Puck: (*gasping*) What...was...that...for?

(*Witch produces the script.*)

Witch: Says it in the script. (*She flicks to the 'page' and points*) See?
'Exit pursued by a bear.'

Puck: (*squinting*) No it doesn't.

(*Witch looks at the script.*)

Witch: Oh. Well, it was funny.

Puck: (*unimpressed*) Ha-ha. Anyway, is that potion ready yet?

Witch: Oh yeah, here you go (*she hands the bottle over*)

Puck: Thanks.

Witch: No problem, but be careful, it's a tad strong.

Puck: Oh don't worry, I'll be careful, it's my middle name. Besides, I'm going to get Ariel to help me.

Witch: Good. Now, when shall we meet again?

Puck: What?

Witch: In thunder?

(*Puck is blank.*)

Witch: (*to audience*) Lightning?

(Pause)

Witch: (to Puck) Or in rain?

Puck: How about an hour?

Witch: Yeah sure that works for me.

(End of scene 1)

Act 1 – Scene 2

(ROMEO enters stage left and JULIET enters stage right. They scowl at each other.)

Juliet: (hands on hips) What time do you call this?

Romeo: Oh for goodness' sake!

Juliet: I do all the housework whilst you're at work and you can't even get home on time!

Romeo: Stop your moaning woman!

(They begin bickering over each other.)

Juliet: You're just like my father!

Romeo: (astounded) What?! How?!

(Juliet produces a bottle from her pocket. She waves it madly at Romeo.)

Juliet: This is what I drink to get away from you! (She downs the potion.)

Romeo: (annoyed) Oh not again!

(Juliet collapses into a deep sleep [could be snoring.] Romeo peers at her, then waves a hand dismissively, tutts and walks off, leaving Juliet sprawled onstage. PUCK enters stage right with ARIEL.)

Puck: (producing the love potion) Ok, so... here's the plan.

(They check the coast is clear.)

Puck: So, we just have to find Romeo or Juliet, pour the love potion on their eyes – it's supposed to work really good that way – then make sure they see each other straightaway and fall in love.

Ariel: Good plan. (*Pointing to the sleeping Juliet.*) Look, there's Juliet.

Puck: Wow, she's so beautiful, even when she's asleep.

(*Juliet snores loudly.*)

Puck: (*sweetly*) Lovely. This is perfect!

Macbeth: (*offstage*) Romeo! Juliet! Are you there?

Puck: (*panicked*) We don't have much time! (*To Ariel*) Come on!

(*They both tiptoe over and kneel beside her.*)

Puck: Ok, (*unstoppers the bottle*) I just sprinkle a little... (*Puck flicks some onto Juliet's eyes.*)

(*Juliet begins to stir. Puck turns to Ariel excitedly.*)

Puck: She's waking up! Quick! Go get Romeo!

(*Ariel nods and runs offstage right, re-entering with HAMLET.*)

Puck: (*face-palming*) What the-

Hamlet: (*dramatically*) To be, or not to be, that is the question.

Puck: Ariel...

Ariel: Mm?

Puck: That's *Hamlet*!

Ariel: Oh, whoops. Hang on.

(*He drags Hamlet off stage left and comes back with OTHELLO.*)

Othello: (*equally as dramatic*) I am one who loved not wisely but too well.

Puck: (*beckoning him over*) Ariel, come here.

(*Ariel does so. Puck flicks him.*)

Puck: That's *Othello*!

Ariel: Oh.

Puck: Go and get *Romeo*!

(*Ariel drags Othello off stage right and comes back with HAMLET.*)

Puck: Oh for goodness- THAT' S STILL HAMLET!

Hamlet: (*to audience, gesturing to Puck*) The lady doth protest too much, me thinks.

Puck: (*goes over and points offstage*) Get out get out get out!

(*Hamlet runs offstage. Puck glares at Ariel.*)

Ariel: (*shrugging*) What? They all look the same to me.

(*Puck sighs. MACBETH comes on stage right.*)

Macbeth: Romeo? Juli- (*he notices Juliet on the floor*) et?

(*Puck shakes his head drastically, mouthing 'no, no, no!' . Juliet sits up, opens her eyes and gazes in awe at him.*)

Macbeth: Why were you on the floor? Are you ok?

(*Juliet says nothing, gets to her feet and stares lovingly at him.*)

Macbeth: Ok, you' re doing a lot of staring right now.

(*He backs up as Juliet advances.*)

Juliet: Where have you been all my life?

Ariel: (*to Puck*) Who is that?

Puck: Macbeth.

Witch: (*offstage*) That' s once!

Macbeth: What? Look, you' re invading my personal bubble- ah!

(*Juliet embraces him. Macbeth struggles to break free.*)

Juliet: You are the love of my life!

Macbeth: I' m what?! Get off!

(*Macbeth breaks away, but Juliet grabs his hands.*)

Macbeth: Juliet! What is *with* you? Where' s Romeo?

Juliet: Who cares? I never loved him anyway!

Macbeth: *What?!* Romeo? Romeo? Wherfore art thou Rome-

(Romeo enters, shocked.)

Macbeth: Oh no. *(Shoves Juliet away)* It's not what it looks like, I swear!

Romeo: Oh don't give me that rubbish Macbeth!

Witch: *(offstage)* That's twice!

Macbeth: Romeo, what do you take me for? *(Aside)* Wait a sec, don't answer that. Why would I want Juliet? I have a wife remember?

Romeo: Your wife mysteriously disappeared.

Macbeth: *(crying)* Thanks for reminding me!

(LADY MACBETH enters.)

Lady Macbeth: *(to the audience)* A sorry sight. *(Exiting)* What's done is done.

Ariel: *(to Puck)* Did you see that?

Puck: Unfortunately, yes.

Romeo: Put up thy sword! *(Revealing a sword)*

Macbeth: *(revealing his sword)* I'll put my sword up *thy* butt!

Romeo: Come at me bro!

(They begin sword fighting. Juliet tries to separate them.)

Juliet: No, stop! Please!

Macbeth: Out the way, idiot.

Romeo: How dare you call her an idiot?!

Juliet: How dare you call me an idiot?!

Macbeth: Pretty easily actually.

Romeo: Why you-

(Romeo lunges for Macbeth, but stabs Juliet, who falls dramatically to the floor.)

Juliet: Oh dreaded sword! Rust inside my body, and let me die. *(She dies.)*

Romeo: Noooo!

Macbeth: Uh-oh.

(Romeo kneels beside Juliet's body, then glares at Macbeth.)

Romeo: You!

Macbeth: Hey, this wasn't my fault! If you hadn't gone for me!

Romeo: If you hadn't called her an idiot!

Macbeth: What in the name of Shakespeare is your problem with the word 'idiot'?

Romeo: It's not about the word, it's about – *(pause)* wait, who's 'Shakespeare'?

Macbeth: *(shrugging)* I don't know, that just sort of came out. I feel like he's important though.

(Both look out into the audience like on 'The Office'. The following dialogue occurs whilst Romeo and Macbeth mime checking Juliet's body for a sign of life.)

Puck: Ariel, this is all your fault!

Ariel: My fault! *(Poking him)* The love potion was your idea!

Puck: *(poking him back)* But if you had gotten Romeo when I said this wouldn't have happened!

(The two begin shoving each other, arguing over each other. WITCH enters stage left and tutts, shaking her head.)

Witch: What happened here?

Macbeth: Oh no! Not you!

Witch: Excuse me?

Macbeth: Anywhere you go, trouble follows!

Witch: What?!

Macbeth: You made me kill the king!

Witch: That was a whole play ago, get over it!

(Macbeth looks at Romeo, who shrugs.)

Witch: *(tutting at Juliet's body)* Dear, dear. It wasn't meant to end like this.

Puck: What do you mean?

Witch: *(producing a copy of 'Romeo and Juliet')* It says here, Romeo and Juliet get married and live happily ever after...

Puck: *(taking the copy and reading it)* What? How did-

Ariel: None of that matters now.

Puck: He's right. *(To witch)* Can you fix this?

Witch: Maybe...

Ariel: Can you bring her back to life?

Witch: No I can't resurrect her.

Macbeth: *(looking around)* Um, who are you talking to?

Romeo: *(taking Juliet's hand)* I'm so sorry, my love. I can't live without her!

Puck: *(to Ariel and the witch)* Well, if he can't live without her...

Macbeth: *(to witch)* You can't really have one without the other...

Witch: *(winking)* I've got it!

Macbeth + Puck: Got what?

(The witch goes over to Romeo and clicks. He drops down dead.)

Macbeth: What the heck!

Puck: You killed him!

Macbeth: Why would you do that?

Witch: I thought you meant-

Puck + Macbeth: No!

Witch: Oh, whoops. Well, I'd better run. *(Exits)*

Puck: *(holding out the play)* Wait your book!

Macbeth: *(to the dead Romeo and Juliet)* Ummm, well I'm gonna go too, can't say it's been nice chatting to you. *(Exits)*

(Puck and Ariel look at each other hopelessly.)

Puck: We messed up big time Ariel.

Ariel: Who knew it was all planned out in that book?

Puck: Wait. What if it wasn't?

Ariel: What?

Puck: *(getting a pen and crossing out the book)* What did Juliet say when she died? 'There rust and let me die or something?' *(begins scribbling)*

Ariel: Are you... changing the ending? That's... genius! Wait don't mention our names, use pseudonyms.

Puck: I'm not an idiot! I'm not mentioning any of what *really* happened, just to be safe, can you imagine what Juliet's dad would do to us if he found out!

Ariel: *(gulps)* Good idea. *(Looking over her shoulder)* So what's the ending?

Puck: There was no story of more woe, than this of Juliet, and her Romeo.

(MACBETH peaks from behind the curtain.)

Macbeth: Or Macbeth!

(WITCH pops up)

Witch: Oh shoot! We said it three times!

Everyone: Huh?