

# 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, tuts 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? Wherefore 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:** Nooooo!

**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 tuts, 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 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?