MARCUS
DIRECTOR
FLORENCE
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 1
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 2
DAVE
MARISSA
GARGOYLE 1
GARGOYLE 2
GARGOYLE 3
CHOREOGRAPHER
GHOST 1
GHOST 2
GHOST 3
BOB
LIGHTING TECH
DRAGON
ASHLYN
ELF 1
ELF 2
SHANNON
BILL
JEMIMA

(Marcus is holding a fake sword in the middle of the stage and on one side there is a makeshift “tower” with Florence pretending to sleep on it, and the dragon beside her.)

MARCUS Where is my princess? Beasts! Come here?

DIRECTOR Okay stop, stop! Marcus, have you heard of acting? And what have our set managers been doing the past 5 months because the tower is falling apart and If Florence falls out, we don't have an understudy.

DRAGON I'd be happy to-

MARCUS I'm sorry but I simply cannot act under these conditions. We have had 4 lights fall off the past 3 weeks. Prince Charming should not be constantly looking up in fear!

FLORENCE If we're sharing complaints I just want to ask if me bursting out into Golden from Kpop Demon hunters is period accurate?

DIRECTOR It doesn't matter!

DRAGON If she doesn't want to do it I will!

DIRECTOR That's won’t be-

DRAGON Oh come on! The dragon is not a big part anyway, I can just do both!

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 1 No thank you! Let's just skip this bit, and go onto the next scene!

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 2 So Maleficent comes out and…

ASHLYN *(Timidly)* Go away you ugly thing this is my tower. *(Whispering to Marcus)* I'm so sorry, you're not ugly, I'm so sorry.

DIRECTOR Ashlyn…Ugh…

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 1 You're very nice…

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 2 Maybe too nice…

ASHLYN I'm so sorry, it's all my fault, I'll do better!

DIRECTOR Look , everyone knows you're not that mean in real life, but you're just going to have to play it up. It's a panto!

MARCUS Is it a panto without a dame?

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 1 We have a dame! Lady Periwinkle, get out here!

(A regular guy comes out with Marissa)

FLORENCE He's just a regular guy!

DAVE Hi guys ,I'm Dave.

DIRECTOR Yes, we know who you are, love. *(Whispering to assistant director)* Put him in the ensemble next year he's a mess.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 1 And Marissa, where are we on costumes? I only ask because it says on my schedule we were meant to have a full dress run 2 weeks ago now.

MARISSA I've just done the elf costumes! Get out here elves!

(2 elves walk out arguing)

DIRECTOR Since when are there elves in sleeping beauty?

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 1 I don't have elves down on the character list.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 2 And who are those kids?

(The volunteers rush out)

SHANNON Sorry! They're mine! I told you to go wait in the other room.

ELF 1 I want to go home. This show sucks!

ELF 2 And the director is funky!

SHANNON They have big feelings.

(Elves run away)

SHANNON Sorry!

MARISSA So I wasted my supplies for nothing?

BILL And while we're here we just whipped up a performance so maybe you'll consider including us in the show.

JEMIMA 5 6 7 8-

(They attempt a really bad 3 part harmony of jingle bells)

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 2 Gee while it is tempting, If you're in the show, who will sell the tea and cakes?

DRAGON Its probably a bigger part than the dragon!

JEMIMA Perfect! And Marissa can just whip up some costumes for us.

BILL It won't be that good but we're fine with that, as long as we get to sing!

JEMIMA 5 6 7 8-

MARISSA Whip up? You can't rush art! And did you see my gargoyle costume? They're flawless.

DIRECTOR I wouldn't say flawless…

(Marcus moves to reveal a pile of gargoyle actors on the floor fanning themselves)

GARGOYLE 1 Sorry…we had to take the costumes off…

GARGOYLE 2 We just did hip hop choreography for 4 minutes in 5 layers of latex and paper machè gargoyle heads.

GARGOYLE 3 I can't feel my legs.

MARISSA Well maybe that's something the choreographer should consider!

CHOREOGRAPHER Excuse me? I'll have you know I just finished the next number and its-

FLORENCE Next number? We've already done every pop song from the top 100!

MARCUS And I was so preoccupied with all the safety hazards I didn't get any of the choreography to “Where the hell is my husband” we did last week.

DIRECTOR Well we'll have to do it again then, won't we?

(3 ghosts come on and try to drag Marcus away, he falls on the floor instead)

DIRECTOR No! Ghosts! We're nowhere near your scene!

GHOST 1 Well you said our cue line!

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 1 And I have down that there are 5 ghosts?

GHOST 2 Yeah, but they've all got heat stroke after the gargoyle number.

GHOST 3 And who are those elves backstage? They just walked past me and said “your jawline is sub-optimal” while laughing.

DIRECTOR Okay, let's just go from the very top I guess. Where's Bob?

(Bob comes running on enthusiastically with his arms open and knocks down the choreographer and Florence)

BOB Hello boys and girls! My name is Bobby and we're going on a magical adventure-

DIRECTOR No, stop. Why would you just run on stage like that?

BOB Sorry I heard we're going from the top and all the lights are out backstage.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 2 Why are all the lights out backstage? Are there any techs back there?

(A lighting tech walks on casually)

LIGHTING TECH Yeah sorry we're having an issue.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 1 What issue?

LIGHTING TECH Well the lights keep falling down.

(Theres a loud crash on one side of the stage and everyone jumps. The elves come on to laugh at Marcus traumatised from the light.)

LIGHTING TECH Yeah like that.

DIRECTOR Well make it work!

LIGHTING TECH That was literally our last light.

MARCUS Right. Nope. Can't do it. I've almost been hit by flying metal too many times for my liking. And by the way, *(speaking to director)* you comment on my acting , when Florence hasn't done a single facial expression.

FLORENCE I'm the *sleeping* beauty!

ELF 2 Well you've got the sleeping part.

FLORENCE Sorry if I'm a little tired after doing 4 backflips to Soda Pop in the last dance number!

CHOREOGRAPHER I think my contemporary and modern jazz hip hop dances are amazing. Sorry if the ensemble can't execute them.

GHOST 1 Is it an ensemble of only two of us are conscious?

GHOST 3 We really have to ease up on the costumes.

MARISSA My creativity will not be stifled!

BILL And neither will ours!

JEMIMA A 5 6 7 8-

ELF 1 You three need to stick to tea and cakes…

ELF 2 (*To Marcus)* And you're a grown man why aren't you at work.

ASHLYN How can you just be mean like that? Don't you feel bad?

ELF 2 Not really.

DRAGON In the most respectful way possible my time and talent are being wasted in this nightmarish and disorganised production.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 2 That was the respectful way?

LIGHTING TECH And where are we on lights?

MARCUS Are you sure that was the last one?

MARISSA Forget about the lights!

(Everything breaks into chaos. The ghosts are trying to shake the gargoyles awake, Marcus is in a ball rocking back and forth, Marissa and the choreographer are almost in a fist fight, The lighting tech is still asking about the lights, the volunteers are singing, Florence has fallen asleep standing up, Dave is still introducing himself, and the elves are running rampant)

DIRECTOR That's it! If you don't want to do it, we're not doing it. Everybody go home.

(DIRECTOR storms of and everyone else starts to leave)

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 2 Listen up! Line. Here. Now.

(Everyone jumps into a horizontal line military style)

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 2 We have put too much time into this panto so here's what's going to happen.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 1 Marissa, You will make costumes that the cast can actually move in. They don't need to be waterproof, as long as there's fabric on their bodies, I don't care!

MARISSA But-

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 2 Go do it!

(Marissa rushes off)

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 1 Ghosts, wake the rest of the ensemble and get them some water. After that they'll come back here and learn 4 numbers with *simple* choreography.

CHOREOGRAPHER Four? That means I'm cutting 49 whole songs and dances!

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 2 Make it work! Bill, Jemima its your lucky day! You get to fill out our ensemble.

JEMIMA YAY!

SHANNON What about me?

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 2 You are getting in the car and driving those little demons home! And Ashlyn you're going with them, you might learn a thing or two about being mean.

ASHLYN I can't!

DRAGON I can!

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 1 Fine! You've got your big role. Ashlyn I've got a better spot for you anyway.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 2 And Dave, you're the Dame whether you like it or not!

DAVE I don’t wanna wear a dress!

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 1 Why did you audition for the Dame then?

DAVE I thought it said Dave. Like my name.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 1 What? Actually nevermind just go sort it with Marissa. Marcus and Florence there's no lights anymore so you have nothing to be scared of. Other than the fact that it's 2 weeks to show and you don't know your lines. Get on that.

MARCUS Fine. But I'm not returning next year.

FLORENCE Oh shut up.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 2 Bob, go do some breathing exercises. You're way too energetic.

BOB I'm supposed to be energetic!

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 1 But you're not supposed to take down our set. Speaking of, can you also find our set designer, she hasn't been showing up since that last light that came down hit her nephew in the head.

LIGHTING TECH And what do I do?

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 2 I saw a ladder in the props room, so climb up it, and screw the lights back in.

(Everyone has left to do their jobs and the director comes back in)

DIRECTOR Where is everyone? No… it can't be… are they working?

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 2 We got them into good shape, boss.

DIRECTOR You even got someone on tea and cakes selling!

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 1 Yeah, Ashlyn is too nice for playing a villain but perfect for begging for money during the interval! This is gonna be a great show.

DIRECTOR Thanks to you guys! I really don't give you enough credit.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 1 So…do you think maybe…we can get paid?

DIRECTOR Assistants don't get paid!

GHOST 2 Hey, can you help with something quickly?

DIRECTOR God. I have to do everything! What would you do without me?

CHOREOGRAPHER I've worked out one *simple* number for the opening.

GHOST 1 Can we show you?