

Act 1 Ladies Notes

1. Fair Is Rose: Zorah + Ladies Chorus + Rose

Jets Enter USL. Sharon & Joy fussing, others preening & gossiping. March down stairs and to fill SL. Some follow Joy, others Sharon—general confusion

Sharks Enter DSR. Preparing for the day, fixing dresses & hair, stretching & practicing. Balletic movements.

As singing starts 3 ladies in bench dance DSR. Rose enters SL, Jets march around her trying to be impressive. Sharks showboating as she comes their way. Jets walk into Sharks and Rose leaves SR ignoring them as aggro breaks out.

Zorah's solo (standing on DSR bench). Bouquet throwing practice USL (take your time and milk it). Confetti throwing practice around bench.

"Hour by hour..." ladies get into circle centre stage facing inwards arms UNCROSSED.

Join hands on "Fair is ROSE". Prepare yourselves on "Soft is Rose". Turn outwards, crossing arms on "Sweet is Rose".

Break circle on "Rose all glowing" and spread diagonally from USL to DSR, facing back of stage. (SING OVER SHOULDER AND LOUDLY!). Uncross arms in a ripple as Rose passes.

Swing joined hands up and down on "Ro-o-ose is the quee-ee-eeen" bringing hands and flowers up to rest on chest on "maidenkind".

In applause and as dialogue begins move to positions for next song.

Dialogue: "Nay gentle maidens"

Dame Hannah enters from her cottage SL. Ladies gather and mostly sit to her right. Val & Ellen get bench for Hannah. Val takes brush. Theresa exits to collect lanterns.

2. Sir Rupert Murgatroyd

Verse 1: Sir Ruper stands strident to the left of DSR bench. 3 bridesmaids gather round him. "witches" strike a pose and drop flowers. "Sticks & stones...duck him in the lake". Bone breaking and drowning attitudes. "burn him at the stake" quickly come to Sir R's left and stand in tripod with arms behind back.

In chorus 3 ladies do spooky walk around witches then all melt back into crowd.

Verse 2. Palsied Hag emerges and walks forwards. 3 Fire ladies crawl round her. Fire starts on "mid fire & flame". Thrown back on "Curse". Hag and Hannah do same movements for the proclamation. Fire moves back to places after proclamation.

Verse 3. Three lantern bearers move DSR and behind Sir R. They alternate heads on "import" then file back to place behind Hannah's bench. Sir R proclaims on "I'll sin no more" - then dies on "died". Coffin bearer ladies in place to catch Sir R as he dies.

In final chorus lift him as high as possible (safely) and carry him off USL. Other ladies follow off. Bench moved back to position DSL by Val & Ellen.

3. From The Briny Sea

All Ladies enter from USL in a line, some with flowers, some with semaphore flags, some fawning over Dick. Jets alternate flags over heads and down, Sharks swish by their sides. Line snakes the stage until stops in a line across the front in time to wave flags in air on “Shouuuut It”. On “Safe and sound returneth he” flag ladies raise right hands in a ripple SR to SL. Then on repeat of phrase quarter turn to stage left and bend over with right arm extended to person in front, also in a ripple SR to SL.

Dick & groupies remain at top of the steps throughout.

4. I Shipped D’ye See.

General massive acting all round. Fawning over Dick, getting over excited—or feeling sceptical of his charms. React to story he’s telling. Whatever you like, just make it big.

Verse 1: DSR

Chorus: Notice Dick has moved halfway through and run after him.

Verse 2: DSL

Chorus: Same again

Verse 3: Centre Stage. Joy faints on big note.

5. Hornpipe

Flag ladies strike pose for their letter for 10 beats. Hold for a phrase. Flags to neutral for a phrase. Dance with neighbours to end.

Bench ladies strike pose with nautical crossed arms (right over left) on first phrase. Down stage leg out to side on second phrase, back in on third. Repeat with upstage leg on next 2 phrases. Clap knees three times on “chum chum chum”, repeat. Hold nautical arms until final knee clap on last “chum chum chum”.

Hornpipers: Nautical Arms & tap right foot for 4 beats. Kick out right leg and pull toes into knee, kick out left leg and bring toes to knee for 4 beats. Repeat on left side. Pas De Bas right then hop on right foot looking out to sea, repeat on left side. Skip with knees up while pulling vertical rope for 6 beats then turn 360 degrees on 3 jumps with nautical arms.

Happens 3 times, getting faster.

Much excitement at the end, curtseying, flag waving as you all exit to the pub SR (Sharks) and into central cottage SL (Jets).