

# Bertie Bunyip

A Musical Play For Children K - 6

> By Barbara Stacey

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A special thank you to Karen Derbridge Y2
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ISBN 0-9587399-0-0

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#### PRODUCTION HINTS

If you're using older students in this production, have the fairies being boys, in a sort of "ugly sister" way. That way you can wring more comic possibilities from the role. Use balloons as wings.

This production could take place out of doors, if you don't have a school stage and hall.

For actual billabong, try a wading pool or simply define the pool with witches' hats. Make a sign saying "Billabong". You could chop up cellophane paper for the water or have stage hands waving long pieces of green/blue cloth.

If you have a band have a drummer or two keep the beat with the tape. Flutes and saxophones could play along where you choose. Percussion section could use wind chimes or something similar for the fairies' wand swishing part.

Dress chorus in something simple. Try a cap turned backwards with cellophane or crepe paper strips sticking out the front. Let them all have spots on their faces or a blacked out tooth.

Make a giant calculator for Mr Bunyip to use in last scene.

Make giant clouds big enough to hide stage hands who are holding them.

You must invest in 3 wands one of which is a trick one which droops when you release the catch.



#### **Bertie Bunyip**

#### CAST

Mr Bunyip, Mrs Bunyip, Bertie Bunyip, Bertie's sister, Bertie's brother, Three Bunyip Fairies, Joe Fish, Striped Fish, Octopus, Fisherman, Chorus - (Can be any number of children) Narrator, Clouds 2, (Children carrying giant cardboard clouds.)

Scene: Bertie is sitting in the billabong playing (Stage left). He is very dirty, Bunyip household (kitchen, two beds) is stage right. Chorus is sitting on either side of the stage area or in front. Mr Bunyip is reading the paper.

Narrator: Welcome, welcome, welcome to Bunyip Land where everyone is happy and cheerful.

Chorus: Yes, happy and cheerful. (Everyone pats each other quietly on the back).

Mrs Bunyip: (Rushing in) Not me! I'm not happy and cheerful. You've forgotten about Bertie!

Narrator: (To the audience) Our Mrs Bunyip has three children and one is very, very naughty!

Bertie's brother: He never does his homework.

Bertie's sister: And he's mean to everyone!

Mr Bunyip: (Looking up from his newspaper) Well, two out of three ain't bad!

Narrator: Let's see what's happening in Bunyip Land today.

Mrs Bunyip: Children, dinner's on! See if you can get Bertie to come home for tea.

(The children scamper down to the billabong where they find Bertie)

Children: Dinner's on! Come on, Bertie. Mum wants you at home, NOW!

Bertie:

Get lost you two wimps! I'm staying here.

(Bertie kicks his brother and bites his sister.)

Sister:

Mum! He bit me!

Brother:

Mum, he won't come in and he kicked me!

Mrs Bunyip: (Hugging both children)

I just can't work it out. I've got three children.

Two are just lovely, then there's Bertie!

Just look at him. What a mess!

Mr. Bunyip: (Looking up from his newspaper)

Well, two out of three ain't bad!

(Children quietly eat their dinner and get ready for bed while song is being sung.)

Chorus: (Sing --- Song 1)

Our Bertie Bunyip's very bad, as bad as bad can be, He will not eat his dinner and he will not eat his tea, He sits all day in the billabong poking faces at his mother.

He bites his little sister and he kicks his little brother. His mother says,

Mrs Bunyip: (Sing---Song 2 continued)

I really don't know what to do with Bertie! His hands are always filthy and his face is always dirty. He never brushes that hair of his or even washes his face. Do you know what I think about Bertie- he's a

disgrace to the Bunyip race.

Chorus: (Sing) A disgrace, a disgrace to the Bunyip race.

Mrs Bunyip: Well, you two good little bunyips may go to bed now. I'll come and tuck you in. I don't know what to do about Bertie. He's still out there in the billabong. What a worry that boy is!

Mr. Bunyip: Well, two out of three ain't bad!

Chorus: (Sing--- Song 2) Jairies enter. That night the Bunyip fairies, were flying overhead,
And they saw Bertie playing when he should have been in bed,

(Clouds drift past giving impression fairies are flying.)
(Jairies produce binoculars or telescope and peer down at Bertie.)

Fairies:(Sing) What is he doing up so late,

Chorus:(Sing) They called to Bertie's mother,

Fairles: (Sing) Why isn't he in bed now like his sister and his brother?

Mrs Bunyip: I really try to coax him in for dinner and a shower but he just sits there being rude.

Where did I go wrong? He just won't come in.

Bertie: It's boring at home. I won't come in. So there!

Mrs. Bunyip: (Sing-- Song 3) He won't come in,

Chorus: (Sing) He won't come in.

Mrs. Bunyip (Sing) He won't come in,

Chorus: (Sing) He won't come in.

Mrs. Bunyip: (Sing) He's been in there all day, He likes it in,

Chorus: (Sing) He likes it in-

Mrs Bunyip: (Sing) The billabong-

Chorus:(Sing) the billabong.

Mrs Bunyip: (Sing) He says he's going to stay.

Mrs Bunyip and Chorus: *(Sing)*He won't come in, He likes it in, He is going to stay.

Mrs Bunyip: Actually, he seems to prefer water to land.
I just can't understand it! Where did I go wrong?

Fairies: You didn't go wrong Mrs Bunyip. Bertie did.

Mrs Bunyip: I just can't understand it.

Fairies:(Sing--- Song 4) Well, Well,

Chorus: (Sing) Replied the fairies, and they gave their wands a swish,

Fairies: (Sing) If he's all that fond of the water then we'll turn him into a fish.

Jairies swish their wands around in a circle, Bertie turns slowly around and when he stops, he is making a fish shape with his mouth. One wand, which is a trick one droops. (You could add triangles or wind-chimes to make sounds for the swish of the wands.) Mr. Bunyip holds up card which says "Two out of Three ain't bad)

Bertie: (Sing--Song 4 continued) Oh dear me,

Chorus: (Sing) Screamed Bertie,

Bertie: (Sing) Now I am in trouble! Where have all my legs gone?

Chorus: (Sing) And he blew a little bubble.

Then Bertie wept a little tear and cried a little bit,

Bertie: (Sing) I'm not a fish!

Chorus: (Sing) Yelled Bertie,

Bertie:*(Sing)* You know I'm a bun-YIP!

(Two fish swim past - Striped Jish and Joe Jish.)

Joe Fish: A bunyip?

Striped Fish: A bunyip? What rubbish!

Chorus: (Sing) What rubbish said a stripey fish as she swam past happily,

Striped Fish: (Sing) You can see he's not a bunyip he's a fish like you and me.

Chorus: (Sing) What rubbish said a stripey fish as she swam past happily, you can see he's not a bunyip he's a fish like you and me!

Narrator: Let's see how Mrs Bunyip is taking this tragedy.

Chorus: (Sing---Song 6) Now Bertie's mum was so upset, because she loved her Bertie,
Although his hands were filthy, even though his face was dirty,
And when she saw he was a fish and not her bunyip son,
She cried aloud in her distress,

Mrs Bunyip: (Sing) Oh! fairies, what have you done?

Fairies: Spoken Don't panic Mrs Bunyip, he'll be a bunyip good as new,
As soon as he has his manners back,
As soon as he's kind, too!
(Fairies move back, clouds hide them)

Chorus: (Sing---Song 7) Those fairies then flew right away, up high and out of sight,
Bert's mum peered in the billabong and cried with all her might.
Our Bertie flipped his tail and fins,
U-turned, and swam away,
He'd try and find that fish called Joe,
And spend his time in play!
He found that Joe Fish just in time,
For Joe was nearly hooked!
A fisherman was pulling him in,
His goose would sure be cooked.

Bertie: Let the bait go!

Narrator: Screamed Bertie,

Bertie: And swim away from the hook!

Fairy: That's one good turn!

Narrator: Said the fairy, and she wrote it down in a book.

Fisherman: Drat that fish! Missed again!
Think I'll take up golf! (Packs up and leaves)

Joe Fish: (Sing --- Song 8) Thanks a lot!

Chorus: (Sing) Said Joe Fish.

Joe Fish: (Sing ) I didn't see the line,
I didn't see the fisherman,
You saved me just in time.
(Joe Jish shakes hands with Bertie.)

Chorus: (Sing) Thanks a lot, said Joe Fish, I didn't see the line, I didn't see the fisherman, You saved me just in time.

Bertie: (Sing) Let's play now,

Chorus: (Sing) said Bertie,

Bertie: We'll blow bubbles in a row

And tickle that crazy octopus,

He'll swim away I know.

Narrator: (Sing) But oh! He didn't swim away,

He laughed so much instead, His legs became all tangled

And he couldn't find his head, he couldn't find

his head, he couldn't find his head!

Octopus: (Laughing) Oh! that tickles, I'm so ticklish. My

legs are all muddled up! Where are my legs!

Help! (laughing helplessly)
Which is the right way up?

Bertie: Try to unwind, first this leg, then another.

(Bertie sorts him out)

Octopus: Oh! Thank you, Bertie, you've treated me like a

brother!

Chorus: At that poor Bert began to sniff...

Bertie: Did you hear him say "Brother?

It makes me feel so terrible. Wish I could see my mother!

Narrator: And before you could say "BUNYIP" Bert was a fish no more. (Sound of wind-chimes)

The fairies' wands had changed him back.

He was standing at his own front door!

(Bertie spins slowly round and to his own front door)

Chorus plus family: (Sing---Song 9)
Our Bertie's back in Bunyip Land, Wah-hoo,
Our Bertie's back in Bunyip Land, Wah-hoo,
Our Bertie's back in Bunyip,
Our Bertie's back in Bunyip.
Our Bertie's back in Bunyip Land.

Our Bertie's back in Bunyip Land, Wah-hoo, Our Bertie's back in Bunyip Land, Wah-hoo, Back near the billabong, Back home where he belongs, Our Bertie's back in Bunyip Land.

Bertie: What a relief to be back home again with my family.
Hi Mum, Hi Dad! Hi you two.(Hugs family)

Bertie: (Sing ---Song 10) I'm back, where I belong
In the bush near the old billabong,
I'm back where I belong
Where my fam'ly is waiting for me.

Chorus: (Sing) He's back where he belongs, In the bush near the old billabong, He's back where he belongs,

Bertie: (Sing) Where my family is waiting for me.

Bertie: Hey Mum, like a hand with the dinner?
Maybe I could set the table before I do my
homework? ...
Gee I feel strange.
I wonder what's come over me?

(Sound of wind chimes, fairies peer over the clouds and nod their heads.)

Mrs. Bunyip: I don't know but it sure feels good!

Mrs Bunyip: (Sing--Song 11)

Now Bertie Bunyip's very good

As good as good can be,

He still plays in the billabong But he's always home for tea!

Chorus:

Now Bertie Bunyip's very good,

As good as good can be,

He still plays in the billabong, But he's always home for tea!

(Bunyips all cheer happily)

Mr Bunyip: Two out of three ain't bad!

Mrs Bunyip: (Whacks Mr Bunyip)

It's three out of three now!

Mr Bunyip: (Takes out calculator and punches sum in it)

Wow! That's 100 per cent! (Gives Mrs Bunyip the high five)

Narrator: Berts mum is delighted to see her son as good as

neш.

Fairies: He's kind now, and he's done some good turns too.

Narrator: Well, as you can see it's been a successful

day in Bunyip Land.

Bertie's good manners are restored.

Mr and Mrs Bunyip are happy and the inhabitants of

the billabong are safe and well.

(Repeat Song 9)

Narrator holds up card with "Wah-hoo" on it and audience sings along.

Our Bertie's back in Bunyip Land.Wah-hoo,

Our Bertie's back in Bunyip Land, Wah-hoo,

Our Bertie's back in Bunyip,

Our Bertie's back in Bunyip.

Our Bertie's back in Bunyip Land.

Our Bertie's back in Bunyip Land, Wah-hoo,

Our Bertie's back in Bunyip Land, Wah-hoo,

Back near the billabong,

Back home where he belongs.

Our Bertie's back in Bunyip Land. END

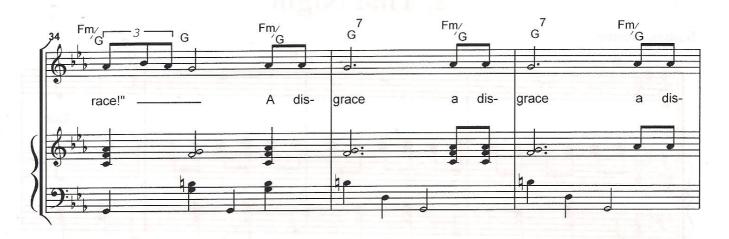
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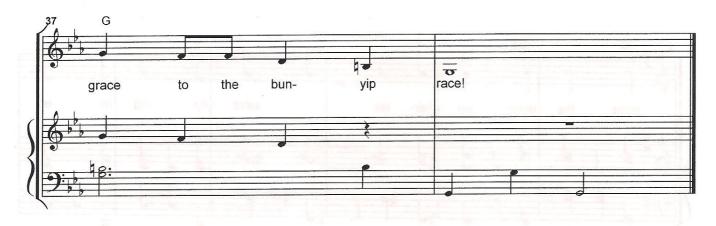


#### 1. Bertie Bunyip



#### 1. Bertie Bunyip





# 2. That Night

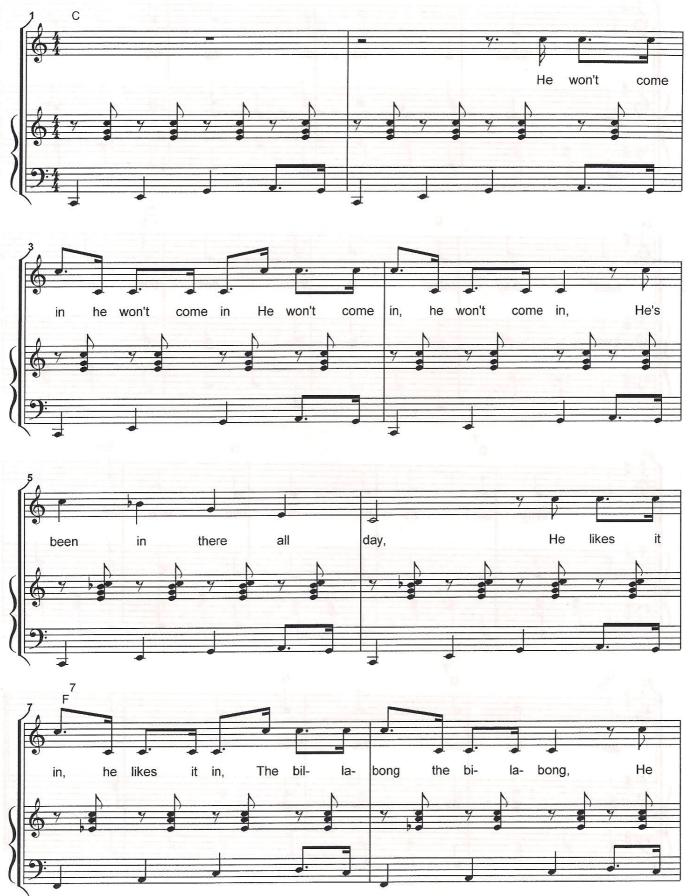


#### 2. That Night



# 3. He Won't Come In

#### Barbara Stacey



#### 3. He Won't Come In



# 4. Well Well





#### 4. Well Well



# 5. What Rubbish

#### **Barbara Stacey**



#### 5. What Rubbish



# 6. Bertie's Mum



# 7. Those Fairies



#### 7. Those Fairies



# 8. Thanks A Lot

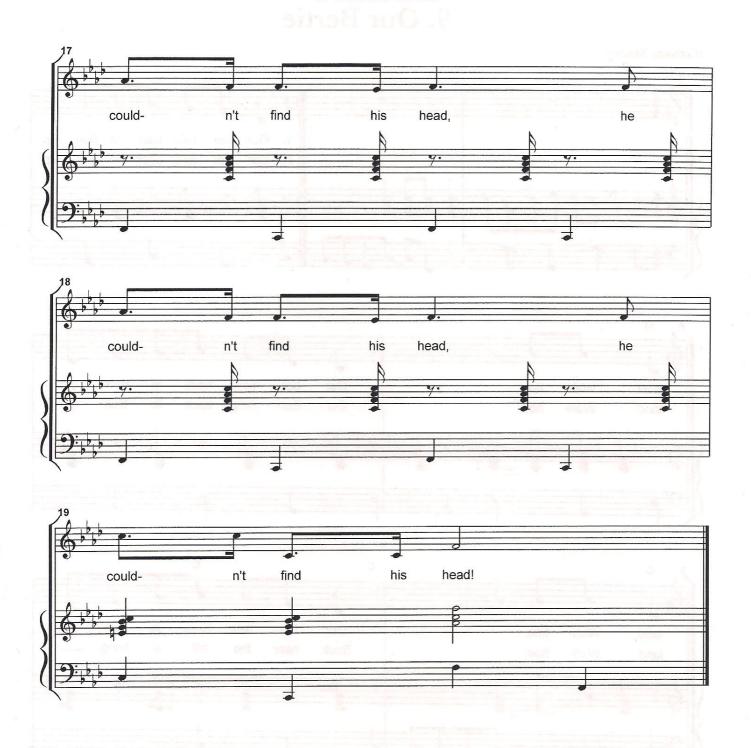
#### Barbara Stacey



#### 8. Thanks A Lot



#### 8. Thanks A Lot



# 9. Our Bertie



#### 9. Our Bertie



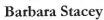
# 10. I'm Back



### 10. I'm Back

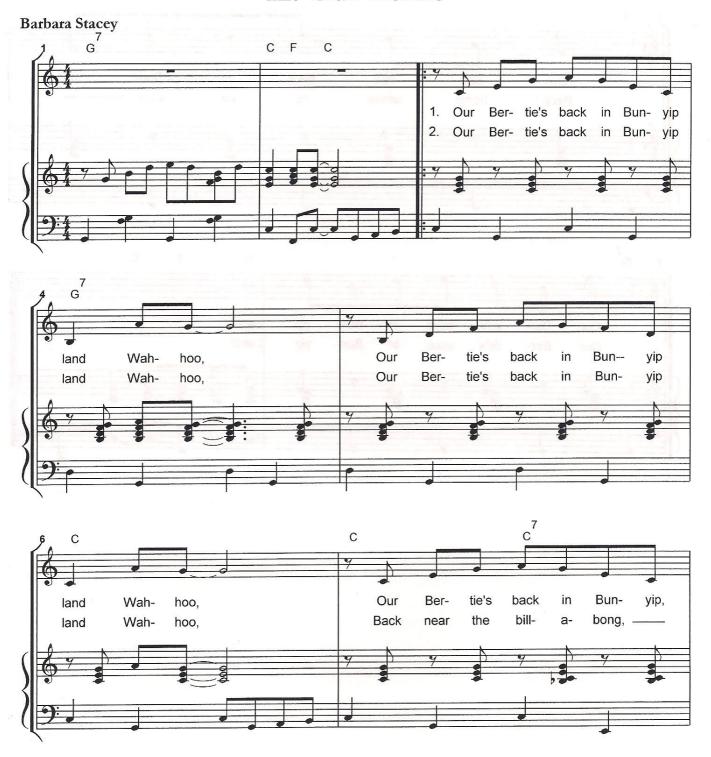


# 11 Bertie!





### 12. Our Bertie



#### 12. Our Bertie



## **SONG SHEETS**

CUE (".... well, two out of three ain't bad") Song 1. Bertie Bunyip

Our Bertie Bunyip's very bad, as bad as bad can be, He will not eat his dinner, and he will not eat his tea. He sits all day in the billabong poking faces as his mother, He bites his little sister and he kicks his little brother.

His mother says, I really don't know what to do with Bertie! His hands are always filthy and his face is always dirty, He never brushes that hair of his or even washes his face Do you know what I think about Bertie? He's a disgrace to the Bunyip Race! A disgrace! A disgrace! A disgrace to the Bunyip Race!

CUE ("... well, two out of three ain't bad") Song 2. That night

That night the Bunyip Fairies were flying overhead,

And they saw Bertie playing

When he should have been in bed,

What is he doing up so late

They called to Bertie's mother,

Why isn't he in bed now like his sister and his brother?

CUE (.. 9 won't come in")

Song 3. He won't come in,

He won't come in,

He won't come in

He won't come in,

He's been in there all day

He likes it in

He likes it in

The billabong

The billabong

He says he's going to stay.

He won't come in, He likes it in, He is goin' to stay.

CUE: ("... 9 just can't understand it!")

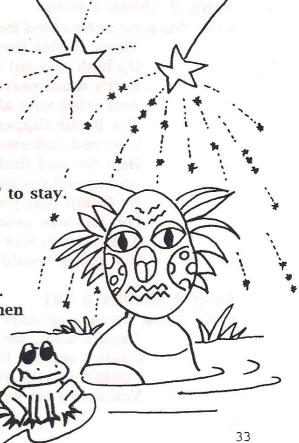
Song 4 Well Well

"Well, well," replied the fairies
And they gave their wands a swish.
"If he's all that fond of the water then
We'll turn him in to a FISH!"

Song 4 continues.

CUE: "... two out of three ain't bad"

"Oh! dear me," screamed Bertie,



Now I am in trouble, Where have all my legs gone, And he blew a little bubble.

Then Bertie wept a little tear And cried a little bit. I'm not a fish yelled Bertie, You know I'm a Bun YIP!

#### Song 5 What Rubbish

CUE: " a Bunyip?"

What rubbish, said a stripey fish As she swam past happily You can see he's not a Bunyip He's a fish like you and me! Repeat

#### Song 6 Bertie's mum

CUE: "Let's see how Mrs Bunyip is taking this tragedy"

Now Bertie's mum was so upset Because she loved her Bertie. Although his hands were filthy Even though his face was dirty. And when she saw he was a fish And not her Bunyip son. She cried aloud in her distress Oh! fairies, what have you done?

#### Song 7 Those Fairies

CUE: "As soon as he's kind too!"

Those fairies then flew right away
Up high and out of sight,
Bert's mum peered in the billabong
And cried with all her might
Our Bertie flipped his tail and fins
U-turned and swam away.
He'd try and find that fish called Joe
And spend his time in play.
He found that Joe Fish just in time
For Joe was nearly hooked!
A fisherman was pulling him in
His goose would sure be cooked.

#### Song 8 Thanks a Lot

CUE: :Think I'll take up golf!"

Thanks a lot, said Joe Fish,
I didn't see the line.
I didn't see the fisherman
You saved me just in time repeat



Let's play now said Bertie We'll blow bubbles in a row, And tickle that crazy octopus He'll swim away I know. But oh! he didn't swim away He laughed so much instead, His legs became all tangled And he couldn't find his head, he couldn't find his head,

He couldn't find his head!

#### Song 9 Our Bertie

CUE: "He was standing at his own front door"

Our Bertie's back in Bunyip land, Wah-hoo,

Our Bertie's backin Bunyip Land, Wah-hoo,

Our Bertie's back in Bunyip,

Our Bertie's back in Bunvip,

Our Bertie's back in Bunyip Land

Our Bertie's back in Bunyip Land, Wah-hoo Our Bertie's back in Bunyip Land, Wah-hoo.

Back near the billabong,

Back home where he belongs, Our Bertie's back in Bunyip Land.

#### Song 10 I'm Back

CUE: "Hi, Mum, Hi, Dad, Hi, you two."

I'm back, where I belong, In the bush near the old billabong, I'm back, where I belong, Where my fam'ly is waiting for me.

He's back, where he belongs, In the bush near the old billabong, He's back, where he belongs, Where my family is waiting for me.

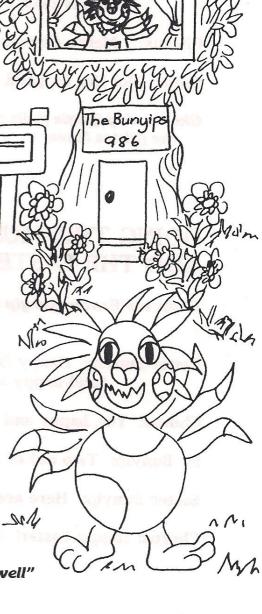
#### Song 11 Bertie!

CUE: "I don't know but it sure feels good"

Now Bertie Bunyip's very good As good as good can be, He still plays in the billabong But he's always home for tea! repeat

#### Song 9 (repeated) Our Bertie

CUE: "the inhabitants of the billabong are safe and well" Our Bertie's back in Bunyip Land etc.



# DOING THIS MUSICAL FOR CHRISTMAS? ADD SANTA BUNYIP!

Enter Santa Bunyip.

Santa Bunyip: Well, How's things in Bunyip Land? Everyone happy and

good?

Chorus: Yes, happy and good.

Mr Bunyip: Two out three, woops, 100% (Holds up sign saying "100%")

Santa Bunyip: Here are presents for all the good little bunyips. Merry

Christmas everyone!

Chorus: Merry Christmas, Santa.

Santa: Ho! Ho! Be good Bertie. See you all next year.

Chorus sing Jingle Bells or Santa Claus is coming to Town, while Santa and the fairies leave.

End

# DOING THIS MUSICAL AROUND EASTER? ADD THE EASTER BUNYIP!

Enter the Easter Bunyip hopping in with basket of Easter Eggs.

Easter Bunyip: Happy Easter everyone. Are all the bunyips in Bunyip Land happy and well?

Chorus: Yes, happy and well.

Mr Bunyip: Two out of three.. woops, 100%!

Easter Bunyip: Here are some Easter Eggs for all the good Bunyips.

Chorus: Happy Easter! (Easter Bunyip hops off)

End