

SCENE 1 **THE GRAND HALL OF THE PALACE OF SLUMBERVILLE**

(The Grand Hall of the Palace of Slumberville is cavernous and elaborately decorated. There is an alter and a font filled with water ready for the baptism. The CITIZENS OF SLUMBERVILLE are gathered for AURORA's christening - the grand event of the year! Everyone is in good spirits and ready for a royal party.)

SONG **SUGGEST 'LOVELY DAY' BY BILL WITHERS**

(MUDDLES enters)

MUDDLES Hello everybody!

(Audience response)

You can talk to me you know, it's not TV. Hello everybody!

(Audience response)

Much better. My name's Muddles. What's my name?

(MUDDLES gestures to the audience to answer him. Audience response)

What's my name?

(Audience response)

Great! You know my name, now it's time to learn all of yours! When I count to three I want you all to shout out your names. One, two, three!

(Audience response)

Wonderful. Now I know all of your names too! My mum Nanny Nightnurse named me Muddles because I always get confused and often muddle things up! Once I stayed awake all night wondering where the sun had gone, and then it dawned on me.

SOUND **JOKE STING**

That's it. First ones free, the rest you have to pay for. Not long ago I was walking some dogs for a friend when all of a sudden they vanished into thin air. I'm not sure where they went, but I've got a few leads.

SOUND **JOKE STING**

I've even been diagnosed as colour blind. Which came right out of the purple.

SOUND **JOKE STING**

So my Mum despairs at me getting muddled up. But I can't help it!

MUSIC **PLAY ON**

(ARCHBISHOP enters he is frantic and flustered)

ARCHB. Muddles! Have you seen your mother?

MUDDLES Hello Archie. Of course I have!

ARCHB. I need her to help me find my bits and bobs. Where is she?

MUDDLES I don't know.

ARCHB. I thought you said you'd seen her.

MUDDLES She's my Mum. I live with her.

ARCHB. So you haven't seen her recently?

MUDDLES Yeah I have.

ARCHB. How recently?

MUDDLES This morning.

ARCHB. Oh never mind!

MUSIC PLAY OFF

(ARCHBISHOP exits, more flustered than when he arrived)

MUDDLES That's the Archbishop of Slumberville, but we call him Archie for short. He's always stressed, and today is Princess Aurora's Christening, so he's even more stressed than usual! I think he secretly fancies my mum! Whenever she's around he gets all flustered and loses track of what he was saying.

NANNY N. *(Offstage)* Muddles!

MUDDLES That's her now.

MUSIC PLAY ON

(NANNY NIGHTNURSE enters)

NANNY N. Muddles there you are. I've been looking for you everywhere.

MUDDLES I've been chatting to my new friends, Mum.

NANNY N. How do you know they're your friends?

MUDDLES Because every time I come on stage, I'm going to shout "What's my name?" and they're going to shout back "Muddles". Look I'll show you. *(Aside)* What's my name?

(Audience response)

NANNY N. Glad you two were listening.

MUDDLES Wake up everyone. We haven't got to the sleepy bit yet! I'll try again. What's my name?

(Audience response)

There you go see. And I'll do that every time I come on. Here Mum, did Archie find you? He was looking for you just now.

NANNY N. If that man doesn't calm down he'll give himself a heart attack.

MUDDLES I tell him you're here. Don't move! *(Aside)* See you later everybody!