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Princess & the Pea
by Kevin M Reese

Cutting the Cast Down to Five
Non-Musical Version

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To cut the roles of Lady Julie, Lady Michelle, Lady Pamela, and Lady Savannah:

1. **To Cut Julie, Michelle, and Pamela's lines at the top of the show.** The script will read:

STEWARD: . . . The Queen is REALLY in charge. Oh, BOY, is the Queen in charge! But don't tell the King I said that. OK?

KING: (off) Prince Leonard? (enters) Prince Leonard? Oh, dear, oh, dear... (looking off) Steward? Steward? (Steward taps him on shoulder, he jumps) Oh! Steward, have you seen the Prince?

2 **To cut Lady Savannah from Princess Edie's first entrance,** the lines will be as follows:

They exit to their respective rooms.

STEWARD: (sneaking on with Princess Edie) Wait here. I'll check to see if the coast is clear. (to aud) Is Her Majesty the Queen anywhere around? (aud resp) Has she gone to bed? (aud resp) Is it safe to come in? (aud resp) Thanks. OK, Princess. Princess Edie, they said it's safe to come in.

Princess Edie enters. She is so charming, we immediately wonder how the queen could possibly not like her.

STEWARD: Gosh, it took us longer to get here than I thought. It's morning already. The Queen will be getting up any time now.

EDIE: (looking around) Thank you, Steward. Oh, what a magnificent palace! My palace is just a cabin compared to this one. How many rooms are in here?

STEWARD: 100 rooms in all. There are 20 bedrooms and 57 bathrooms--

EDIE: 57 bathrooms?!?

STEWARD: We throw a lot of parties.

EDIE: It's just lovely.

STEWARD: Now, Princess Edie, here is the plan. I--Oh-oh! (remembering the name ban) Princess Edie... Princess Edie... --if the Queen knows it's you, this will never work. What is your last name?

EDIE: Kelly.

STEWARD: Kelly, huh? Wow, neat! You have two first names! Edie and Kelly. Well, then we will call you Princess Kelly. And it won't be a lie because that is your name: Princess Edie Kelly. (to aud) That'll work don't you think, kids? (back) It's been a long time since she's seen you so I'm hoping she won't recognize you.

EDIE: Oh, Stewart, thank you so much for helping me. You have taken a great risk in bringing me here.

STEWARD: Oh, please, your highness. It's the least I can do for Prince Leonard. He's my best friend--even if he is a prince. Anyway, let's wait until we know it's going to work. (we hear Prince coming) Shh, someone's coming.

PRINCE: (entering pulling petals from flower) ...She loves me...She loves me not--

EDIE: She loves you.

PRINCE: ...She loves me not-- (comic take. Realizes something's strange) Huh? (sees her) Oh, it's YOU!

EDIE: Yes, Stewart brought me here. He says he knows how we can get your mother's permission to marry.

PRINCE: (going to her) Really? Oh, I hope it works.

EDIE: (going to him) Oh, so do I.

STEWARD: (under his breath) Oh, so do I. (back) Well, we'd better get ready to meet the queen. Now, don't forget, Prince Leonard, pretend as though you've never seen her before.

PRINCE: Right. (to Edie) Good luck. I'll see you later.

EDIE: Ok, bye.

PRINCE: (exits, ecstatically ripping petals from flower) She loves me...she loves me... she loves me....(he's off)

STEWARD: Well, now, we've got to figure out a way-- (hears offstage noise) Oh-oh, I think I hear the Queen coming. Now, don't forget your new name, Princess Edie. (she's still looking off in direction of Prince) Princess Edie. Do you understand? (she's playfully ignoring him) Do you hear me? Princess Edie--

EDIE: (playfully) Oh, I'm sorry, were you speaking to me? My name is Princess Kelly.

STEWARD: (laughs) Good girl. (to aud) Well, wish us luck. (aud resp)

Queen and king enter.

QUEEN: Ah, Stewart, there you are, I-- (noticing Princess) And who is this?

STEWARD: Oh, your majesties, may I present Princess Kelly. Princess Kelly may I present King Beaufort and his Queen, Faraday ("Queen for a day")

QUEEN: (aside) Ooo, I hate it when he introduces me that way.

KING: A pleasure to meet you, my dear.

QUEEN: How do you do.

EDIE: (curtsy) Hello.

QUEEN: Stewart, why wasn't her arrival announced to us?

STEWARD: Oh, your majesty, she just arrived. We were on our way to see you.

QUEEN: Oh, well, then welcome to our kingdom, my dear. And what brings you to the palace?

STEWARD: She has come in hope of marrying the Prince.

KING: Oh, wonderful!

QUEEN: Oh, really!

EDIE: If I may be so bold, your majesties, to hope that I am worthy to marry his highness the Prince.

KING: Oh, be bold, do be bold!

QUEEN: (giving King a look) Well, we'll hope for the best, my dear.

STEWARD: Yes, yes. Well, we--I mean the Princess just got in. She must be exhausted from traveling all night. I'll show her to one of the guest rooms so that she may take a nap. I'm sure she--

QUEEN: Oh, Steward, I'm afraid that is out of the question.

STEWARD: It is?

QUEEN: Tomorrow is Leonard's birthday and the deadline for the his finding a bride. If we are to evaluate (looks her over) this... lovely... creature— properly, we must begin immediately. (Stewart and Edie exchange looks)

KING: But, Faraday, the poor thing--

QUEEN: Beaufort, do you know where the Royal Book of Tests is?

KING: Yes, dearest.

QUEEN: Bring it to me, would you dear?

KING: Yes, dearest. (exits)

QUEEN: Steward.

STEWARD: Yes, your majesty?

QUEEN: Why don't you take the Princess somewhere and get her ready for the testing. I'm sure she would like to wash her face.

STEWARD: Right away, your majesty. (exits with Edie)

3. To Re-assign Savannah's line ("What?") following "The Royal Test" section. Edie will now say it.

4. "The Night Bongs" section: Have only the King enter after the two-bongs section, cut the entrances of the three rejected Princesses and Lady Savannah after the three-bong section— but have the Prince enter here instead.

5. To cut the rejected Princesses' lines at the end of the play, the lines will be changed as follows:

QUEEN: I'm just glad it's not too late. Kelly--I mean, Edie--I mean PRINCESS Edie, I am so sorry I've treated you badly. I think you will make a wonderful bride for my baby-- I mean, my SON--Can you ever forgive me?

EDIE: (humbly) Of course, your majesty.

QUEEN: (hugging Edie) Oh, thank you!

KING: Well, what are we waiting for? We have a wedding to prepare! Let's go! Let's get a move on! No time to lose! Get the lead out—

QUEEN: Beaufort!

KING: Sorry, dearest.

All exit. Return for bows.

THE END

[A Note About the Cutting:

These are the suggested cuts authorized by Kevin M Reese. As with all our scripts, you may always cut or rearrange lines from the script as long as you do not change the playwright's original message of the play (when in doubt, ask). You may NOT add additional dialogue or songs at any time— even if written by Kevin M Reese in another play.]