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(The stage is set with a large rostra U/S/C with steps leading up to it either side with a feel of a town square meeting place. Possibly a cross is present to suggest a well or memorial.)

Smoke and well-lit preset to create atmosphere).

Music for atmos audience: ‘**Medieval Dances & Festival and Faire**’ (play on loop):

Blackout music carries on Stage 3’s get on Stage ready for Dance. Fade music & Lights up &

Cue music for Stage 3 Dance: ‘**Masquerade Ball**’ – Court scene etc.

During Dance, Pied Piper (Stage 3) Dances on & weaves through dancers who do not notice her she goes to stand on U/S/C rostra – Stage 3’s dance off light rostra – fade music.

Pied Piper: Hamelin Town's in Brunswick,

By famous Hanover city;

The river Weser, deep and wide,

Washes its wall on the southern side;

A pleasanter spot you never spied;

But, when begins our ditty,

Five hundred years or more ago,

To see the townsfolk suffer so

From vermin, was a pity.

Stage 1: Rats!

(Stage 1 Rats enter here & shout **Rats** & gradually creep in squirming around looking for treats suddenly filling the space and slithering around – need to look menacing)

Pied Piper: They fought the dogs and killed the cats,

And bit the babies in the cradles,

And ate the cheeses out of the vats,

And licked the soup from the cooks' own ladles,

Split open the kegs of salted sprats,

Made nests inside men's Sunday hats,

And even spoiled the women's chats,

By drowning their speaking

With shrieking and squeaking

In fifty different sharps and flats.

Cue Music - Stage 1 Dance - ‘**Rat Race**’ by Skindred — (busy frantic music)

(music fades as Town crier (Stage 3 comic Actor as Bruce Forsyth) enters ringing Stagecoach bell from D/S/L – rats perk up and leave as they here him / her coming – they scamper off S/R)

Town Crier: Oh yea! Oh Yea! Oh yea! Oh Yea! Oh yea! Oh Yea!

(Town Crier spots audience)

Town Crier: Oh! Hello. All right my loves? (pause) Better than last weeks audience!

Nice to see you to see you.....

(audience answers – NICE)

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Town Crier: Good Game! Good game! (As Brucey)

Now then - after me. Oh yea?

Audience: Oh yea.

(Town crier carries on this exchange for a while then says:

Town Crier: Ooh! You’re my favourites.

Anyway, I’ve got some news.

(he unravels a large scroll to read the news, but is interrupted – some market stall folk enter carrying their wares around their necks like theatre ushers / fruit, veg, meat – all plastic)

Gunther: Fresh Fruit. Come and get your fresh fruit. (goes to U/S/C)

Maria: Fresh veg. Come and get your fresh veg. (goes to D/S/R)

Diether: Stale meat. Come and get your stale and rancid meat. (goes to D/S/L)

(Helga, Melba, Esmerelda & Giselda come in and buy products silently and leave during the following as Town Crier reads from scroll):

Town Crier: Finished now have we my loves? (to market folk)

Oh yea! Oh yea! News for today!

“In Hamburg this morning a mad dog bit an income tax collector – after being given several remedies and treatment for shock – the dog has been allowed to go home.”

Also hot off the press: Jurgen Pompernickel – Hamlin’s longest serving deck chair attendant was better tonight, after collapsing at work today.

It took five people forty minutes to work out how to get him up again!

Oh yea! Oh yea!

(he / she rings the bell and saunters off to sit U/S/R of rostra to read scroll)

Gunther: Fresh Fruit. Come and get your fresh fruit.

Maria: Fresh veg. Come and get your fresh veg.

Diether: Stale meat. Come and get your stale and rancid meat.

(the Clock maker (Gustav) enters D/S/R looking for parts for his work – constantly checking his watch on a chain – stressed and distracted)

Gustav: I’m late. I’m late for a very important date. I’m late. I’m late for a very important date.

Town Crier: You’re in the wrong story.