



**Script sample**

## Summary of Act One, Scene One

A storybook is opened and we begin to hear the tale of a vain and selfish Emperor who demanded a new set of clothes every day. Soon, the stage is filled with people waiting to see what today's outfit will be, so that they can make their fashion choices for the day ahead.

The Treasurer has bad news (SONG: SHOW YOUR RESPECT) - at first, it seems the Emperor is ill. But the reality is worse he's not happy with his clothing!

Soon, the Wardrobe Mistress appears to set matters straight (SONG: EVERYONE KNOWS). The Emperor has no new outfit today. To everyone's horror, they learn that he will have to wear the same outfit for two days in a row. And they are all stuck copying yesterday's yellow fashion choice.

But they soon grow excited. A competition is to be held for a new chief designer, the most prestigious job in the whole Empire. Anyone with creative flair can enter, and everyone fancies their chances.

SAMPLE

## ACT ONE, SCENE TWO

### A city square, Later that morning

*[The people of the Empire leave the stage in a chaotic rush, revealing two new figures (BROTHER and SISTER) – neither of them wear any yellow at all. They carry various bags, including a briefcase. They sit, to catch their breath.]*

**BROTHER:** I am too tired to walk another step.

**SISTER:** It's OK. Nobody's looking for us here. We can lie low for a bit.

**BROTHER:** No time for that – we've run out of money.

**SISTER:** Already? I thought we had enough for a while.

**BROTHER:** We would have done if that red cape you wanted hadn't been so expensive!

**SISTER:** Hey, we needed that for a job! It's not my fault the villagers didn't believe you'd cut me free from a wolf's belly.

**BROTHER:** You need to dream up a new scheme. Quick.

**SISTER:** But everywhere we go these days, it's the same story... We have a brilliant idea for making money, but before you know it the jig is up and they're chasing us out of town!

**BROTHER:** That's true. And so disappointing! After all that work last year, I never did make anyone believe my name was Rumpelstiltskin! But then again...

#### 4. CUT FROM THE VERY SAME CLOTH

**BROTHER (cont'd):** Do you remember the queen who believed you could feel that pea under a hundred mattresses?

**SISTER:** Or the prince who thought I'd been asleep for a hundred years?

**BROTHER:** All you need to do is come up with something they want to hear!  
Together, we can convince people of anything!

**BROTHER (cont'd, sung):**

Remember the actor who just couldn't act?  
We swelled up his head with alternative fact!

**SISTER:**

And what of the king who was stricken with greed?  
He bought 'edible gold', which was basically swede!

**BROTHER:**

Like a flickering flame

**SISTER:**

To a wandering moth

**BROTHER:**

We find a man

**SISTER:**

And a plan

**BOTH:**

Then sit back and scoff!  
It's the perfect scheme by the perfect team  
'Cause we're cut from the very same cloth!

**SISTER:** Just give me a moment, little brother, I'll come up with a plan.

**BROTHER:** And I'll make them believe it! We'll be collecting the gold in no time!

**SISTER:** There must be someone round here who's ready to believe absolutely anything we tell them.

**BROTHER:**

Like a flickering flame

**SISTER:**

To a wandering moth

**BROTHER:**

We find a man

**SISTER:**

And a plan

**BOTH:**

Then sit back and scoff!

It's the perfect scheme by the perfect team

'Cause we're cut from the very same cloth!

Twisting tales, weaving a story

Never fails when you cover your tracks!

Spin a yarn, live in the glory.

Do it with charm when you're changing the facts!

**BROTHER:**

Like a flickering flame

**SISTER:**

To a wandering moth

**BROTHER:**

We find a man

**SISTER:**

And a plan

**BOTH:**

Then sit back and scoff!

It's the perfect scheme by the perfect team

On the same routine, we are living the dream!

We're cut from the very same cloth!

*[As the applause dies down:]*

**TREASURER (off):** Young lady! Young lady! Where do you think you're going?

*[Hearing this, the pair head upstage to hide. The LAUNDERER enters downstage, carrying the envelope, followed swiftly by the TREASURER, who carries some flyers. Neither of them notice the BROTHER and SISTER.]*

**LAUNDERER:** I've got an important job to do for the Wardrobe Mistress. I need to deliver this to the Chief Designer.

**TREASURER:** Ex-Chief Designer! Give me that envelope – I need to check the amount.

**LAUNDERER:** Umm... But the Wardrobe Mistress said...

**TREASURER:** You can do whatever she tells you when it comes to clothes. But money is my affair! Hand it over.

*[The LAUNDERER hands over the envelope to the TREASURER who opens it and glances through the notes inside.]*

**TREASURER:** That seems about right. I just need to take some out for taxes, of course.

*[TREASURER separates some notes from the stack.]*

**LAUNDERER:** Oh! Of course?

**TREASURER:** Not forgetting the new taxes imposed today. *[Removes more notes]* And expenses. General eating and drinking. *[More notes]* Lighting the design studio. *[More notes]* Breathing court air. *[More notes – none left now]* This barely covers it. *[Hands a couple of coins to the Launderer.]*

**LAUNDERER:** That's not fair! I can't give her that.

**TREASURER:** You're right!

*[The TREASURER takes a coin back from the LAUNDERER, leaving her with just one.]*

**TREASURER (cont'd):** When you see our ex-chief designer, tell her she's lucky to keep the coat on her back! Now run along.

*[The LAUNDERER runs off.]*

**TREASURER (cont'd):** Hmm. *[Looks at notes.]* Half for the Emperor and half for me, I think. These ridiculous interviews are bound to be expensive.

*[TREASURER exits, throwing the flyers down in contempt.]*

*[BROTHER and SISTER exchange glances, then pick up the flyers and read them.]*

**BROTHER (examining flyer):** Look at this! Interviews tomorrow morning for a new chief designer. The perfect way to get more money. Let's give it a go!

**SISTER (examining flyer):** Hmm. Big, bold and brilliant? An outfit like you've never seen before? I think I can work with that...

**BROTHER:** I can feel a plan coming on.

**SISTER:** And I know you're ready to deliver. We're the perfect partnership!

**BROTHER:** Like Peter Pan and Wendy!

**SISTER:** Jack and Jill!

**BROTHER:** Hansel and Gretel!

**SISTER:** Bread and cheese!

**BROTHER:** Bread and cheese?

**SISTER:** Yes!

**4a. CUT FROM THE VERY SAME CLOTH (reprise)**

**SISTER (cont'd):**

Like a fresh white roll  
And a chunk of good cheese  
We're a winning combination

**BOTH:**

And we do it with ease!

**SISTER:**

Just like you next to me,

**BROTHER:**

Next to you, next to me!

**BOTH:**

We work in two-part harmony.  
When the job is done and we've had our fun,  
We will both be off!  
Because we are cut from the very same cloth!

*[End of scene.]*



# ACT ONE, SCENE THREE

## The Emperor's Palace, That afternoon

*[The FASHIONISTAS are busy working on their designs. The WARDROBE MISTRESS arrives, followed by the COBBLER and LAUNDERER, who bring racks of clothing with them.]*

**WARDROBE MISTRESS:** As you are all so eager to interview for the position of Chief Designer, we've provided some examples of the Emperor's previous Very Important Garments for you to examine.

*[FASHIONISTAS gather around the rails and examine the clothes.]*

**COBBLER (to audience):** Everyone in the empire seems to think they can become a designer. I'll stick to making shoes, thank you very much.

**FASHIONISTA 1 (to Launderer):** Aren't you going to take a look?

**LAUNDERER:** I washed and cared for them all, so I already know them well enough.

**FASHIONISTA 2:** Ooh, look at this blue one!

**WARDROBE MISTRESS:** Yes, that is one of my favourites. But remember, we want something new and different!

*[As the WARDROBE MISTRESS supervises the examination of the VIGs, the COBBLER draws the LAUNDERER to one side.]*

**COBBLER:** Are you going to take part in these silly interviews tomorrow?

**LAUNDERER:** I don't know, mum. I want to, but I can't really think of any good ideas.

**COBBLER:** You don't have to take part just because everyone else is.

**LAUNDERER:** I know. Mum, I have to tell you something!

**EMPEROR (wails from off-stage):** It's so unfair!

**TREASURER (off):** Yes, yes, yes. Extremely unfair, Your Imperial Majesty.

**EMPEROR (off):** Announce me!

**TREASURER (off):** Very well.

## 5. EMPEROR'S FANFARE

*[We hear a fanfare. The TREASURER enters and (over a drumroll) reads from a scroll/tablet.]*

**TREASURER:** Noble subjects, honoured guests, may I present His Imperial Majesty, the guru of garments, the wizard of the wardrobe, the fabric fashionista...

**EMPEROR (off, cutting in over the above on musical cue):** Hurry up!

**TREASURER:** *(sigh)* Emperor Frederick the Fashionable!

*[The fanfare resumes with the "Fashion Icon" theme. The EMPEROR struts in, posing grandly as if on a catwalk. When the fanfare concludes, he continues:]*

**EMPEROR:** Yes, it's me! Your great and mighty Emperor, Frederick the Fashionable! No need to applaud... Why is nobody applauding?

*[FASHIONISTAS gasp and hurriedly stand to attention, their hands ready to applaud.]*

**FASHIONISTAS:** Hurrah for the Very Important Garment!

**EMPEROR:** Too late! Far too late. Wardrobe Mistress? Treasurer?

**WARDROBE MISTRESS:** Yes, Your Imperial Majesty?

**TREASURER:** What can we do for you?

**EMPEROR:** Nobody has applauded my outfit all day!

## 6. FASHION ICON

**EMPEROR (cont'd):** I simply can't go on like this...

**EMPEROR (sung):**

People say I have flair, yes they do.

But today, it's not fair, I feel blue.

'Cause today I want to wear

Something new!

I need a new chief designer,

Someone with the skill to see it through.

*[The EMPEROR singles out a trio of the FASHIONISTAS.]*

**EMPEROR:** You, you and you! Back me up!

**EMPEROR**

People say I have flair, yes,  
they do.

But today, it's not fair, I feel blue.

'Cause today I want to wear.

Something new!

**[FASHIONISTA TRIO]:**

[Mm, yes they do]

[Oh so blue]

[Say a prayer, say a  
prayer for]

[Something new]

**EMPEROR:**

I need a new chief designer,

Someone with the skill to see it through.

**TRIO:**

But who? But who? But who?

You? You? You?

**EMPEROR**

Catastrophic implications for the court!

Catastrophic implications they report.

**[TRIO]:**

[For the court!]

[We report.]

**EMPEROR:**

Catastrophic implications all around the globe.

**TRIO:**

No! Just minor implications for his fancy wardrobe!

**EMPEROR:** Wardrobe Mistress! *(to Fashionistas)* Go away! *(to WM)* Can you give me any good news?

**WARDROBE MISTRESS:** Well, this slight mishap has given the court a chance to catch up on laundry.

**TREASURER:** And what you've saved on clothes today you can spend on even better clothes tomorrow.

**WARDROBE MISTRESS:** You will have your new clothes very soon. Designers from across the land are getting ready for the interviews.

**EMPEROR:** Yes, but when will I have them? It's been hours!

**WARDROBE MISTRESS:** These things take time, Your Imperial Majesty.

**TREASURER:** And money.

**WARDROBE MISTRESS:** We will interview for a new chief designer first thing tomorrow.

**EMPEROR:** Tomorrow?!?! *[Music out.]* I cannot wait another second!

*[The EMPEROR is distraught. The TREASURER attempts to console him, but gives up and motions to the WARDROBE MISTRESS to take over.]*

**WARDROBE MISTRESS:** Perhaps, when the new designer begins their work, we could hold a grand parade.

**EMPEROR:** I do like a parade! *[HE perks up.]* Treasurer! You must ensure that everything for the interviews and the parade is perfect. Spare no expense!

**TREASURER:** But...

**EMPEROR:** Treasurer?

**TREASURER:** Fine.

**EMPEROR:** Treasurer!

**TREASURER:** No expense to be spared, Your Imperial Majesty.

**EMPEROR:** Marvellous! I shall declare it a bank holiday. We will make it a celebration!

*["Ta Da" music cue]*

**WARDROBE MISTRESS:** A celebration?

**EMPEROR:** Yes, celebrating me and my new garments!

**EMPEROR (cont'd):**

Flyers, leaflets, banners must be sent  
All announcing a spectacular event!

A celebration for the nation, write a detailed invitation.  
Send to every generation, use the palace watermark.  
This is courtly jubilation! There should be no hesitation!  
Don't forget the punctuation - comma, exclamation mark!

**EMPEROR (cont'd):** Did you get all that?

*[Everyone looks blank and a bit embarrassed.]*

**LAUNDERER:** ...exclamation mark?

**EMPEROR:** You must all pay attention! Ready?

*[They nod enthusiastically.]*

**EMPEROR:**

A celebration for the nation, write a detailed invitation.  
Send to every generation, use the palace watermark.  
This is courtly jubilation! There should be no hesitation!  
Don't forget the punctuation - comma, exclamation mark!

*[Everyone hurriedly compares notes.]*

**ALL:**

A celebration for the nation.  
Write a detailed invitation.  
Send to every generation.  
Use the palace watermark.  
This is courtly jubilation!  
There should be no hesitation!  
Don't forget the punctuation!  
Comma, exclamation mark!

**EMPEROR:** This must be the greatest event the Empire has ever seen!

**TREASURER:** And the most expensive, no doubt.

**WARDROBE MISTRESS:** We will attract the very best of all designers.

*[The others start to sing the "Fashion Icon" theme quietly under the EMPEROR's next line of dialogue.]*

**[ALL:]**

[Fashion Icon! Fashion Icon!]

**EMPEROR:** The very best? Marvellous. By the time we're done, the world will know me as the greatest Fashion Icon in history!

**ALL:**

Now you know no-one says 'no'!  
Watch him glow, his wardrobes grow.

**[EMPEROR]:**

[To what I wear]  
[I do declare]

He's a beau when systems go. [None can compare]  
Now you know no-one says 'No!'  
Cue his fanfare...

**EMPEROR:** Hit it!

**ALL:**  
Fashion Icon!  
Fashion Icon! Give it attitude!  
Fashion Icon!  
Fashion Icon! The Emperor, dude!

*[Some cast sing "Ooh wah wah ooh" behind the next section.]*

**ALL:** Now you know no-one says 'no!' [To what I wear]  
Watch him glow, his wardrobes grow. [I do declare]  
He's a beau when systems go. [None can compare]  
Now you know no-one says 'No!' [Yeah, yeah, YEAH!]

**ALL:**  
Fashion Icon!

**EMPEROR:** What's out of vogue I simply loathe!

**ALL:**  
Fashion Icon! Give it attitude!  
Fashion Icon!

**EMPEROR:** I'm Emperor Fred, I'll turn your head!

**ALL:**  
Fashion Icon! The Emperor, dude!  
Now you know this love affair.

**EMPEROR:**

I am sure you are aware!

**ALL:**

In the court we have to care.

**EMPEROR:**

It's the law! Stop and stare!

**ALL:**

Now you know no-one says "no"!

Know no-one says "no"!

Know no-one says "no"!

**EMPEROR:**

To what I wear!

**ALL:**

Fashion icon!

*[Everyone strikes a pose, which they hold through the applause. The EMPEROR is the first to break from his pose.]*

**EMPEROR:** Carry on creating, everyone! *[Nobody moves.]* Well? What are you waiting for? Carry on creating, everyone!

*[Everyone scatters chaotically, taking the rails of clothes with them.]*

6a. **OUT OF 'FASHION ICON'**

**End of script sample.**