

# Beauty and the Beast

Adapted for the stage by Tom Neill

from the versions by  
Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve  
Jean-Marie Le Prince de Beaumont  
Charles Perrault

Approximate duration: Act 1 - 40 mins, Act 2 - 40 mins

## Characters

Marie La Fée de Beaumont, a good fairy and Queen  
of France

Scrub, a streetwise frog statue

Marcel Dumb-bell, an arrogant paramour

Pasquet, a scatty parrot statue

Belle Âme, a beautiful soul

Jacques Âme, a merchant and father of Belle

Sapajou, an educated monkey statue

Sébastien Le Prince de Beaumont, the Beast and  
Prince of France

Captain, of a ship

First performed on 7 December 2010 at The Lights,  
Andover, produced by Blackeyed Theatre and  
directed by Phaedra Ashford with the following cast:

Marie La Fée / Scrub - Heather Wilson

Marcel / Pasquet - Ben Watson

Belle - Theresa Brockway

Jacques / Sapajou - Murray Smith

Sébastien / Beast - Henry Douthwaite

## Press

‘A fast moving production with an operetta-style opening... blossoms into a fun drenched  
version of this classic tale’ - The Stage

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Commissioned in 2010 by



Act 1.

Scene 1 - Prologue, The Royal Palace.

*Overture.*

QUEEN

Bonjour! Welcome to you all. Welcome to my palace. And thank you for that magnificent music. I am lucky to have the best musicians in France.

I am so glad you are able to make it to celebrate this very special day with me. And although I don't know any of you yet, I hope by the end of today we will all be good friends. Now do you all know one another?

No? Well, in that case we must get acquainted. I would like you to turn to the person sitting next to you and say 'hello'. But let us say it in French - we will say 'bonjour'. So, here we go... 'bonjour'.

Très bon. Very good. Now let us be properly continental about it, and when you say 'bonjour', I want you to give your neighbour a little pat on the head like this, because everyone in France does this. Are you ready?

So, all together... 'bonjour'. Très, très bon. Very, very good. Now we are all friends!

Oh, I almost forgot. I have been away for so long that you will not know who I am. My name is Marie La Fée de Beaumont and I am the Queen of France. It is quite funny, because in your language my name means 'Mary the Fairy'. Bleugh! I prefer Marie La Fée. It has a certain... 'I don't know what'.

Today is special because my son is to be married to a true Beauty. I am most proud of him. But first, we will tell you how this came to be. It is a story that we can all learn something from. But it is also very exciting!

To your places please. The story is called 'Beauty and the Beast'.

*A mime show.*

ALL

**Welcome to France  
It's time to tell  
A story, sing a song  
A dance, magnificent  
Luxurious, and strong**

**The worlds greatest feast  
Beauty and the Beast**

QUEEN

**The story starts before the names  
Of Beauty and the Beast  
A businessman called Jacques Âme  
Was sitting eating cheese**

JACQUES

**I'm France's foremost connoisseur  
Of carefully curdled milk  
I ship my cheese around the Earth  
In exchange for silks**

**And spices, jewels and condiments  
Whatever luxuries I please  
In all the seven continents  
I am the biggest cheese!**

QUEEN

**One day while he was out at sea  
Some news reached Jacques Âme  
He learned that very suddenly  
His wife had passed away**

**And as the tears fell from his eyes  
The oceans filled with water  
I travelled to him in disguise  
To bring his new born daughter.**

JACQUES

**A magic child, from above.  
I will fulfil my duty  
She smiles, my little love  
I shall name you Beauty  
The worlds greatest feast  
Beauty and the Beast**

Her presence was sunshine and she was the joy of her Father's heart. Over time, Jacques Âme cast off his grief and matured in to a man of sense, a person of quality and my best friend. His daughter, Belle, became the most charming little girl, and made many friends.

*Belle, Marcel and Sébastien as children.*

MARCEL

You! Let's play kiss chase.

BELLE

Ok.

MARCEL

Chase me!

*Belle chases Marcel.*

- MARCEL            You never catch me. No matter how slowly I move. Why not?
- BELLE             I'm very grateful to you for your kind solicitations, but I am not permitted to marry you without the consent of my father. And anyway I'm too young.
- MARCEL            You can kiss me for 5 francs.
- BELLE             I am not permitted to kiss you without the consent of my father. And anyway I don't want to.
- MARCEL            Why not?
- BELLE             Because I'm going to kiss and marry him.
- MARCEL            Who are you?
- PRINCE            I am Sébastien, the Prince of France.
- MARCEL            I'm a prince.
- BELLE             You're not a real prince.
- MARCEL            Do you want to know my name?
- BELLE             No thanks.
- QUEEN             And it was in this polite and good-natured way that Belle Âme successfully avoided the unwanted attention of horrible little boys.

*Belle and Sébastien a little older.*

- PRINCE            **When I was fourteen, France bemoaned  
A further tragedy  
My father lost his life, the throne  
and crown were passed to me**
- JACQUES           **Your son, the Prince Sébastien  
Needs taking under wing  
I'll introduce you to our friends  
And teach you everything**
- About the way your sovereignty proceeds  
Put aside your childish games  
Come in to the library**

**I'll educate your brain**

*The Prince of France is transformed in to the Beast.*

QUEEN            **I heard a terrifying roar  
A smash of glass and wood  
When I pulled aside the door  
Jacques alone stood**

JACQUES        **A fearsome fiend, a vile beast  
My nerves are truly shaken**

QUEEN           **Where is my son?  
Your majesty  
The Prince of France is taken**

QUEEN           I did not know whether Sébastien was alive or eaten by this monster.  
So I did the only thing I could; I wished for the best.

**A spell of love will keep my son  
Sébastien from harm  
Love, will bring him safely  
Back in to my arms  
The world's greatest feast  
Beauty and the Beast**

**The world's greatest feast  
Beauty and the Beast**

Are you enjoying it so far?

*Audience response.*

Good! And it gets better. We join the story ten years later. Jacques  
Âme is the richest and most powerful man in France; Belle Âme is the  
most beautiful and virtuous mademoiselle. But, ten years is a very  
long time to wait, so, with your help and a little magic, we can turn the  
years in to seconds, by counting down together from 10...

*Everyone counts down the years from 10.*

**The world's greatest feast  
Beauty and the Beast**

**End of scene.**

Scene 2 - The Village Square.

*Belle is reading a book. Jacques is reading company reports.*

JACQUES            *Tuts.*

BELLE                What is it?

JACQUES            Nothing, nothing; it is business.

BELLE                What's wrong?

JACQUES            It is the Beast. Another of my shops has been raided today.

BELLE                Why does he pick on you, father?

JACQUES            I do not know. I was there when he kidnapped the Prince of France.  
Perhaps he wants me too. It is history; do not trouble yourself over it.  
I have employed a man to sort it out.

BELLE                Let's do something fun this afternoon; like skittles, croquet or horse  
riding.

JACQUES            You are trying to cheer me up. Bless you. But, I have a ship coming in  
this afternoon, which I must meet. It is full of expensive potpourri.

BELLE                Can I help with that?

JACQUES            That is kind, but it is not necessary. Would you like a few francs for  
you to do whatever you please?

BELLE                I think I'll just sit and read.

JACQUES            Very well. Au revoir, my little love.

BELLE                **Here I am  
It's just me  
There's nobody else here for company**

**But when I  
When I dream  
I'm lost in a beautiful reverie  
Strolling through orange trees  
Rose petals on the breeze  
There with the Prince of my dreams**

*Ballet.*

**Today  
I just might  
Start the next chapter in my life**

**Turn the page  
Run away  
Write my own story  
For I feel that surely  
The Prince is alive  
Somewhere he still survives  
Waiting to start a new life**

*Marcel enters.*

MARCEL *(Aside)* Belle Âme, a beautiful soul! Look at her. She is perfect... for me! Today I will make her my girlfriend. Watch and learn monsieurs. *(To Belle)* Do you believe in love at first sight, or do I have to walk past again?

BELLE Are you talking to me?

MARCEL You are a thief!

BELLE I beg your pardon?

MARCEL No, wait. Your father is a thief, because he stole the stars from the night sky and put them in your eyes.

BELLE That's very sweet.

MARCEL What is your name?

BELLE My name is Belle.

MARCEL Belle Âme. Like the chiming of a magic watch. Do you know what time it is?

BELLE I don't.

MARCEL My magic watch says it is time for you to kiss me.

BELLE It's not.

MARCEL Well, in that case, my magic watch must be five minutes fast.

BELLE That's very charming, but I'm never going to kiss you.

MARCEL Ah, but I would wait forever in hope.

BELLE Who are you please?

MARCEL Surely you have heard of me.

BELLE No, I don't think so. Well, I'm pleased to meet you, whoever you are. I always like meeting new...

MARCEL What are you reading?

BELLE It's a love story.

MARCEL Is it called 'If I could re-arrange the alphabet I'd put U and I together'?

BELLE That wouldn't fit on the cover. It's called...

MARCEL I love that book.

BELLE 'Cyrano de Bergerac'.

MARCEL I love that book.

BELLE What was your favourite bit?

MARCEL I love the bit with the big nose.

BELLE Have you read this book?

MARCEL I'll be honest with you, I have not read this book.

BELLE Then why did you say that you have, silly?

MARCEL To bring a smile to your face.

BELLE Thank you, that is generous of you.

MARCEL Yes it is. Ha! You smiled. Look at the time on my magic watch. If you want to kiss me, it will only cost you five francs.

BELLE Wait a minute.

MARCEL That is my best offer.

BELLE You. It's you. You're that horrible little boy who made me play kiss chase with him.

MARCEL You are that gorgeous belle who is destined to be my special mademoiselle.

BELLE No way.

MARCEL You have no choice. I have decided. You are my girlfriend.

**The moment I saw you  
I knew that you'd want me  
You have that look in your eyes  
That far away gaze that says  
'You are amazing'  
Yes, it's true, I am that guy  
Belle, let me tell you  
You're one in a million  
But, I mean that strictly literally  
All the girls in the world  
Want a piece of the action  
Everybody fancies me  
Everybody wants to be**

**Marcel, Marcel Dumb-Bell  
At everything I excel  
If your life's a misery  
I suggest you come to me  
I will be your 'bon ami'  
And I'll do it all for free  
You know you cannot resist  
I'm right at the top of your list  
I'm a pedigree breed  
I'm all that you need  
Yes, everybody wants to be me**

BELLE The moment I saw you  
MARCEL What were you thinking?  
BELLE Well, I don't want to be rude  
But I thought 'here's a man  
With an interesting dress-sense'  
Like something out of Scooby Doo<sup>1</sup>  
MARCEL But then I charmed you  
With my conversation  
BELLE I think I need to tell you the facts  
You're a fool, you're not cool  
You're a premier tool

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<sup>1</sup> Or 'Like something out of Doctor Who' for an older audience.

**Nobody will sing your tune  
We think you're a stinky baboon**

MARCEL **But I'm Marcel Dumb-Bell**  
Everyone knows  
BELLE **You smell**  
MARCEL **If your life's a misery**  
I suggest you come to me  
BELLE **I don't need a 'bon ami'**  
MARCEL **That's because I'm**  
BELLE **So smelly?**  
MARCEL **You know you cannot resist**  
BELLE **You're not even close to my list**  
MARCEL **I'm a pedigree breed**  
BELLE **Can you smell swede?**  
MARCEL **No, everybody wants to be me!**

BELLE I'm sorry, Marcel. I'm only making fun of you because you are such a big head.

MARCEL You don't know a good thing when you see it.

BELLE Yes I do, and when I see it I'll let you know.

MARCEL Keep looking. I'm the best and everyone knows it.

BELLE Says you! I want a second opinion.

MARCEL Fine. I will ask them. *(To audience)* Am I gorgeous?

*Audience response.*

Oh, yes I am.

*Audience response, adlib.*

Oh, this is getting us no-where. How gorgeous am I, on a scale of eight to ten?

*Audience response, adlib or*

*[Response]* is not on the scale.

I will ask you a straight question. Am I a stinky baboon?

*Audience response.*

Are you trying to make me look stupid?

*Audience response.*

Well, you would say that because you are all ugly!<sup>2</sup>

**BELLE**                    **Why does no-one love me Belle?  
Is it because I smell?  
You spend so much time on Marcel  
There is no time for someone else.**

**MARCEL**                **But look at my bulging marcells!  
For these the ladies like to queue  
BELLE**                    **I don't believe that's true  
A lady much prefers to be wooed**

**MARCEL**                Wooed? As in, I chase you.

**BELLE**                    Yes, you do nice things for me.

**MARCEL**                I have never done this before. But, ok. I will woo you.

**Woo Woo Woo Woo Woo Woo  
Woooooo you**

**I CHASE YOU!**

*Dance break or chase.*

**Marcel, Marcel Dumb-Bell  
At everything I excel  
If your life's a misery  
I suggest you come to me  
I will be your 'bon ami'  
And I'll do it all for free  
You know you cannot resist  
I'm right at the top of your list  
I'm a pedigree breed  
I'm all that you need  
Yes, everybody wants to be me**

*Jacques enters.*

**JACQUES**                Belle! Marcel! What are you doing on my daughter?

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<sup>2</sup> Or 'jealous!' if you think someone might be offended by 'ugly!'

MARCEL I am wooing her. Woooooo.

JACQUES Get off her now!

BELLE Father, do you know this man?

JACQUES You are supposed to be sorting out my business.

MARCEL We are in love. Belle, you will marry me.

BELLE There is no way I'm going to be Belle Dumb-Bell.

MARCEL I hate to break your heart, but the Prince of France became the Beast's breakfast ten years ago.

BELLE Why can't you say something nice? When was the last time you said 'I love you'?

MARCEL I say it every morning when I look in the mirror.

BELLE Yuk!

JACQUES Stop this noise! I have bad news. While you have been cavorting in the sun, my warehouse has been burned to the ground. The whole shebang; stores of sumptuous stock suddenly singed to smouldering cinders. Do you know what this means?

MARCEL No lunch break?

JACQUES It means we have lost everything. We are ruined!

BELLE This is the work of the Beast.

JACQUES Yes. But, I blame you. I employed you to protect me from such disasters.

MARCEL It is only my first day. I got distracted.

JACQUES Too bad. I should cut out your tongue and use it as bait for the Beast, then catch him in a net made from your own hair.

BELLE Please don't punish him, Father. He is a baboon; what could he have done against such an attack?

MARCEL The girl is right.

JACQUES Yes, you are a baboon, but maybe you can still be of use to me. The

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Queen of France has a cottage in the country. Take Belle there with what we have left. I have one ship left at sea. Perhaps I can save some money from this. I will meet you at the cottage tonight. Go and prepare a carriage before I change my mind.

*Marcel exits.*

Belle, my little love. I am ashamed. I should not have left our fate in the hands of this primate. We have a hard life ahead of us. Let me fetch with me one last luxury as a reminder of happier times. What will you have? Say anything. A necklace, perfume, one of those little bags that goes over your shoulder? What do you call it? A baguette.<sup>3</sup>

BELLE The only thing I wish for is to see you come home safely.

JACQUES Bless you, you seek nothing for yourself, yet you deserve something for this misfortune. Come, what shall I bring you?

BELLE Very well, my dear father. Since you desire me to make some request, I ask that you will bring me a rose.

JACQUES You obey me and yet put me to no expense. You are truly a beautiful soul. Look, the clouds are frowning. You must go swiftly and safely. So, good bye.

BELLE Au revoir, dear father.

*Belle exits. Music. Thunder and rain. The Beast roars. Jacques exits.*

**End of scene.**

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<sup>3</sup>Courtesy, Stuart Nicklin.