

Sleeping Beauty

A pantomime in one act
(and that's one more than it deserves)

Scene: An enchanted office, far far away. Through a tangle of ivy creepers can be discerned a young girl fast asleep on her keyboard, her blonde hair spread everywhere (but still attached to her head you understand). Hacking his way through the ivy with a Stanley knife, stage right, enter our intrepid engineer....

Engineer: Blimey, someone's been a bit free with the Miracle Gro.

The sound of his voice awakens the girl (the traditional method of awakening being classed as sexual harassment these days) and she raises her head. She knows if he's come to rescue her, she must make a good first impression. She is unaware that his first impression of her will be the one the keyboard has left on her face.

Girl: Have you come at last? Oh, I've waited so long!

Engineer: Look, eight hour response it says, eight hour response you get. And I'm still within time. So what's the matter? Says here (he consults his clipboard) your computer suddenly went to sleep and you couldn't wake it up. Did you try shaking the mouse?

Girl: (nodding) It sank its teeth into my thumb and ran off. And I could've sworn it said "I'll give you bibbety-bobbity-bloody-boo".

Engineer: Nasty! Well where's the computer?

Audience: It's behind you!!

Engineer: (Yeah, there's a surprise). So who booked the call then?

Girl: It was probably one of the lads. Sneezy maybe, or more likely Grumpy. He tends to do most of the complaining.

Engineer: (flicking worriedly through his paperwork) Sorry, are

you sure they're meant to be in this story?

Girl: I don't know. I didn't write it. What's it matter anyway? They only have small parts.

Engineer: Hey, this is a family panto you know.

Girl: What? Oh! (blushes)

Engineer: Oh, now don't go getting bashful.

Girl: (bursting into tears and pointing to a small pair of boots in the corner) I can't! Poor Bashful! That's all that's left of him!

Engineer: Wow, what happened?

Girl: We don't know! One minute he was standing by the printer singing "Some Day My Prints Will Come", and then there was a paper jam and he opened it up....and there was a crunching noise....(sniff!) and all we found were his boots.

Engineer: Ah well, that's one of those multi-function printers that is. Print, copy and scan are only the functions they tel you about. Not the kind of thing your average layman should tinker with. Or lay-dwarf for that matter.

Girl: (blowing her nose) Well anyway, what about my computer?

Engineer: OK, OK. So what exactly happened with it?

Girl: Well I don't really know. I just touched it and everything went... funny.

Engineer: (finally looking at the computer) Hang on. This isn't a PC. It's a Mac.

Girl: Oh no it isn't!

Engineer: Oh yes it is!

Girl: Are you sure? Or are we still stuck in a panto script?

Engineer: No, it really is a Mac. And there's some sticky stuff on it.... (snatches his hand back). Well it's pretty clear what's gone on here.

Girl: (clutching his arm in alarm) You don't mean.....?

Engineer: I'm afraid so. Someone's poisoned your Apple.

Exit stage left to jeers and missiles from the audience who know a lame joke when they hear it.

The End