

Princess Irene – young

THE PRINCESS AND THE GOBLIN

A children's play by Stuart Paterson
From the book by George MacDonald

First performed by the Dundee Repertory Company in 1993. This is the story of a kind but wayward princess, who having run away from her strict nurse is captured by Crown Prince Krankl, heir to the Goblin Kingdom.

This scene takes place in the goblin palace, deep under the mountain. **IRENE** thinks she has escaped from Krankl, but he suddenly appears, accompanied by Fannon, a small dragon. Krankl announces that he intends to marry her and that one day she will be Queen of the goblins. **IRENE** recognises Fannon as the dragon she had once helped when he hurt his wing. She begs Krankl to take the dragon away, knowing that whatever she asks he will do exactly the opposite. Left alone she approaches Fannon, who at first lets out a tremendous roar.

Irene

(To Krankl) Go! Please go . . . but I ask one favour – take that horrible dragon with you! . . . I hate him. He's ugly and fierce and he scares me . . . (Krankl exits) I knew if I asked for one thing, he would do the other. All cruel people are the same . . . You're a good dragon, aren't you? (Fannon roars fiercely) Don't be angry, Fannon . . . (He roars more loudly, comes towards her menacingly) Fannon? You do remember me, don't you? (Fannon charges at her, roaring, flailing his wings) Fannon! Stop it! Please! (She covers her eyes in terror, but Fannon rushes past her and flushes out Sly who has been hiding) The goblin spy! (Fannon chases Sly) Good boy, Fannon! Chase him! Bite his legs! Go on! (She watches as Fannon chases Sly off) Come back, Fannon! Don't leave me here on my own! Let him go. Please, come back. (Enter Fannon) Good dragon. I thought you had forgotten me . . . We are friends, aren't we? (Fannon gives a gentle roar) Come over here, then. Come on. (He goes to her and she strokes and pats him) Let me see your wing. (She examines his wing) It's nearly all better now. Soon you'll be able to fly. You really are the best dragon in the whole world . . . And your wings are so beautiful. Perhaps one day you will let me sit on your back and we'll fly over oceans, forests and mountains . . . But remember and pretend to be fierce! (She roars) (Fannon licks her) Stop licking! I'm glad I've found a friend. It's like I've been swallowed down into the belly of some huge monster . . . But you! You've been a prisoner in the dark for six years. Do you ever dream of the sun? Do you dream of a ball of fire hanging in the sky like a giant lamp? You keep dreaming, Fannon, and I'll take you out of here. I'll find a way, I promise! (Looks off) He's coming back! Quickly, pretend to be fierce! As fierce as you can!