**Dame Bevvy Crusher’s Most Extraordinary Guide to Writing the Best Pantomime Ever, tbh.**

**Audio Description Transcript**

Title : Dame Bevvy Crusher’s most extraordinary guide to writing the best pantomime ever tbh.

Silent Film Caption: What a long winded title, you are in for a wild ride strap yourself in.

Voice Over: Introducing Dame Bevvy Crusher with heavy pantomime make up - large eyebrows, heavy eyeshadow, round circular cheeks and heavy lipstick. She's wearing a towel as a turban on her head and a leopard print dressing gown. She's scratching her nostril.

Silent Film Caption: What on earth are you doing, can't you see that I'm not ready. Don't you dare edit this clip into the video.

(Oops).

Voice Over: Oh, I didn't see you there.

Silent Film Caption: What, you can't see the big camera right in front of you.

New Silent Film Caption: My name is your ladyship Dame Bevvy Crusher, Duchess of panto Shire and 654th in line to the throne of the United Kingdom of Great Pantish and Northern Panto Land.

Voice Over: Dame Bevvy is mouthing words to the camera.

Silent Film Caption: I am here to present my most extraordinary guide to writing the best, hands down pantomime in the whole damned world.

Voice Over: Dame Bevvy proudly shows us her book, the front of which it says Best Panto Ever. She's keen to point out, and underline these words as captions.

Silent Film Caption: Why do you need captions here, the book, obviously says best panto ever. Does she think she's the queen on Christmas Day or something.

Silent Film Caption: All you need to know is she's constantly posing herself. I think she's going to win a Nobel Prize for coming up with this book.

Voice Over: Lots of gesturing from Dame Bevvy. Lots of mouthing words. She has a feather pen in her hand and grandly begins to write.

Silent Film Caption: The first step to writing an utterly brilliant panto is to come up with a list, Such genius. So the number one on my list is to have fat characters.

Silent Film Caption: Since the handwriting is too small to see it says one, fat characters for diversity. Oh, basically what she said earlier.

Voice Over: Oh, hang on, she scratched that out. She's replaced the word diversity with laughter.

Silent Film Caption: Wow. Oh, Dame Bevvy says this part and this part character will be played by none other than me. You must feature yourself in the panto.

Voice Over: A funny little walk.

Silent Film Caption: Watch me as I demonstrate with this fat suit. I'm so funny. I am so original

Voice Over: Dame Bevvy falls to the ground.

Silent Film Caption: There is canned laughter. The ground is shaking. Wow. So, original.

Voice Over: Dame Bevvy is doing lots of comic tongue action and making herself look rather sexy on an armchair. Dame Bevvy wearing an even larger fat suit descending staircase. She's out of breath.

Silent Film Caption: Wow, laughing at fat people you must feel so good about yourselves.

Voice Over: Then Dame Bevvy sits in her chair ready to write. She waves her feather pen at all.

Silent Film Caption: Second on the list, have disabled characters. It takes forever to hire disabled actors, or is it for differently abled. Let's cast an able bodied person into this role of the Seven Dwarves. Much easier.

Voice Over: A mixed race, Thai-Scottish actor with long dark hair, a denim jacket and checked trousers appears on screen.

Silent Film Caption: Take off your shoes and put your knees in them. Oh god, why did I accept this job.

Voice Over: The actor does what they are asked puts their knees into their shoe. They look confused.

Silent Film Caption: Come on, wiggle your body. Stop this, please.

Voice Over: The actor looks uncomfortable, puts up their thumbs and wiggles from side to side, with their knees in the shoes.

Silent Movie Caption: It is not difficult to cast disabled actors.

Voice Over: Dame Bevvy seems to be congratulating herself. Very pleased with her work.

Silent Movie Caption: No wonder I am a Dame, it is just pure dead brilliant. Yes, the editor did reuse this clip. Is she quoting Prestwick airport?

Voice Over: Dame Bevvy has a feather pen and notebook and she's had another idea.

Silent Movie Caption: What is number three be, ah, we need a, what is the correct term, person of colour.

Voice Over: A mixed race actor giving a big smile and a double thumbs up, definitely thinking they're going to get the part. Dame Bevvy looks alarmed. She isn’t happy at all and crosses out what she's written on her page.

Silent Movie Caption: No no no no, we need a white person to play a person of colour in a panto or opera, or any other form of high art. It's just the done thing.

Voice Over: The mixed race actor is still smiling and points to their face. Suddenly, a white actor comes into the scene, and pushes the mixed race actor out of the shot.

Silent Movie Caption: As the wise Dame Baga Chipz once stated, Much Betta.

Voice Over: Oh, looks like Dame Bevvy has had another brilliant idea.

Silent Movie Caption: I just come up with the most outstanding idea for number four, I shall have someone rescue a weak and feeble princess. And then they'll get married and live happily ever after.

Voice Over: An image of an actor in a long black wig, stripey dress, lipstick and glasses. They are trapped behind bars overacting and screaming for help. A queer woman enters the scene, ready to rescue the princess. They look very happy about it. But then start to look uncertainly at the camera. We come back to Dan burfi still writing the traditional pan talk. She looks distressed, as if she's going to be sick.

Silent Movie Caption: What, no, I don't want queer characters, disgusting. Only straight couples go on to live happily ever after. Bring me a knight in shining armour.

Voice Over: The queer rescuer then leaves the scene. The princess puts two fingers down their throat,

Silent Movie Caption: Just pretending that a short time has passed, because, well, the editing of this is shoddy.

Voice Over: The queer character re enters the scene in male drag looking very masculine, showing their muscles. They have a drawn on moustache and beard. They look ready to do the rescue.

Silent Movie Caption: This section is so clumsy. I mean who hire these actors. Next!

Voice Over: Dame Bevvy's heteronormative rescue appears to have taken place. There's a lot of tongue action and the actors look very pleased with themselves.

Silent Movie Caption: Much betta. Oh I am such a genius. (*What is this show?)*

Voice Over: More writing from Dame Bevvy. She's obviously got a lot of ideas.

Silent Movie Caption: So, idea number five. What shall the core theme be? Acceptance, diversity, inclusion, social justice?

Voice Over: Oh no, that has enraged Dame Bevvy, she's furious. She’s just tearing pages from her book. She tears up the pages and throws them into the air. She looks hot and bothered.

Silent Movie Caption: Nobody wants to see that kind of silly nonsense. Oh, thank goodness I stopped myself there.

Voice Over: Dame Bevvy is really hot. She's having to dab tears and perspiration from her face.

Silent Movie Caption: This writing malarkey. It's such hard work. Did she just dab herself, under her armpits with her own writing?

Voice Over: Oh, there we are, again, yes, definitely the armpit.

Silent Movie Caption: The very best panto will only need one thing defeat evil.

Voice Over: Now we see a female actor in a long blonde wig, holding a cat in their arms, holding a hand drawn picture of a witch's hat above their head. They appear to be cackling and wailing.

Silent Movie Caption: Did you say cat? Is that a cat?. Oh, please zoom in, editor person.

Voice Over: The camera zooms in on a charismatic and hairless cat wearing a jumper. In the witch's arms.

Silent Movie Caption: Anyway, back to the film. Unfortunately.

Voice Over: The good character arrives with a sword and a shield to defeat evil.

Silent Movie Caption: And in case you didn't notice it, the writing on the shield said ‘made from slain beast’. Wow. They really went all out on the budget for this show.

Voice Over: The good character takes the cat from the witch’s arms and sets it free. The which is very unhappy. But then the good character continues the action with their sword and their shield. The witch falls to the floor and dies a long and dramatic death. The hairless cat looks on the cat places the witch's house on the floor and loyally sits upon it.

Silent Movie Caption: Can someone just give this cat, a bloody Oscar already?

Voice Over: The cat does a bit more acting, and then leaves.

Voice Over: The lighting has changed. It is full colour and modern day. Someone has found an old pantomine book written by Dame Bevvy Crusher. They close the book and throw it away and say, thank god they don't make them like that anymore.

Voice Over reading end credits: And then there's lots of canned laughter.

The end.

Finally.

Commissioned by Little Cog (not cock as I keep pronouncing it)

For Staging Our Futures project.

by Bea Webster

With Emma Webster-Mockett.

A special guest appearance by Hera the hairless cat.

**Copyright Bea Webster. All rights reserved. Strictly no useage.**