



Barney's Fair is set in an Old English Fair-ground. Barney and his wife Irene and Grannie are probably Irish, but they don't have to attempt Irish accents so long as they throw in a few begorrahs and to be sures now and then.

If you have strong singers, put in more songs. If not leave some out, include an Irish Jig for the girls at some stage, perhaps as an opening number. Do try to include the audience as much as possible. After all they are at "Barney's Fair" and having recognised that they are there, play

as much of the dialogue as possible straight out front.

As noted in the cast list it is possible to use females in several of the male roles if you have a shortage of men. I would suggest that Barney, Paddy and Mortimer need to be males and Wan also unless you are fortunate to have a very versatile comedienne.

Above all have fun with the script, every-one in the cast should be played much larger than life..... The costumes, even the farmer, should be bright and colourful with lots of reds and greens. And the carnival folk, that is the residents of the fair can have as much glitter and sparkle as possible, really outrageous glitzy dresses for madame Valda and Sweet Irish costume or a little girl blue dress for Cathy.

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To be sure 'an I hope you and your company will be after havin' a successful season with "Barney's Fair" an' all 'an all! And 'tis hopin' I am, to be sure, to be sure, that you'll all have as much fun with the script begorrah.....as we did here in Bundaberg Queensland!

"Barney's Fair."
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CHARACTERS:-

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|------------------------------|---|
| BARNEY | Fairground Barker Manager |
| PADDY | Gullible Handy-man |
| MORTIMER STUBBS | Solicitor and landlord |
| WAN | Chinese Herbalist |
| OFFICER KELLY | Irish police officer |
| FARMER | May be doubled up with Officer Kelly |
| HELEN BACK | Newspaper reporter |
| MADAME VALDA | Gipsy Fortune teller |
| IRENE | Barneys wife |
| GRANNIE | Barneys Mother |
| CATHY | Barneys daughter |
| LADY PONCINGTON-JONES | Lady of the Manor |
| NELLIE | Belly Dancer |
| AGNES and MABEL | Lady Golfers |

The show may be performed by nine or ten women and three men by using a Farmers Wife, a Police-woman and a Lady Chinese Herbalist.

CHORUS OF STALLHOLDERS AND VILLAGERS OPTIONAL.....

SUGGESTED MUSIC

AS AN OVERTURE BETWEEN EACH ACT.....

With Me Shillelagh under my Arm, or When Irish Eyes are Smilin'..ANY ROLLICKING IRISH TUNE!

1. If You're Irish, or Come to the Fair.
2. Lovely Bunch of Coconuts. (Down at Barneys Fair)
3. Hearts and Flowers.(MUSIC ONLY)
4. Enjoy Yourself, or Money, Money.
5. Pomp and Circumstance, (MUSIC ONLY)
6. Flash Bang Wallop ! or
I've never seen anything like it in my Life.
7. The Marrow Song, or Slow Boat to China.
8. You'd be Surprised, or Ain't he Sweet.
9. Big Spender, or My Heart Belongs to Daddy.
10. Orange and the Green.
11. The Old Grey Mare or Over the Hill.
12. It's a Great day for the Irish or Twenty-one Today.
13. Reviewing the Situation or Master of the House.
14. Dear Old Donegal

N.B. songs number 3 and 5 are instrumental only.

The show may be performed with or without music, above music is suggestions only as an indication of the type of song suitable.

Music is of your own choosing and copyright permission should be sought from the appropriate publishers of any music used.

" Barneys Fair "

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ACT ONE

THE SCENE REMAINS THE SAME FOR THE ENTIRE PRODUCTION

IN A CLUB SITUATION NO SET IS REQUIRED AS THE VENUE BECOMES "BARNEYS FAIR" PERHAPS A BACKCLOTH WITH SCATTERED CUT-OUT GLITTER COATED SHAMROCKS OF VARIOUS SIZES....

IF THE PRODUCTION IS ON A STAGE THEN, THE SCENE IS A FAIRGROUND, SIDESHOW ALLEY. STALLS AND SIDESHOWS LINE THE WINGS, PERHAPS A FERRIS WHEEL IN THE DISTANCE ON THE BACKDROP. TOWNSPEOPLE JOIN IN THE OPENING NUMBER. ON STAGE ARE BARNEY, PADDY, WAN, VALDA, CATHY, NELLIE, GRANNIE IRENE AND CHORUS OF TOWNSPEOPLE.

SCENE ONE.

MUSIC NO.1.....

(AFTER THE OPENING NUMBER THE STALLHOLDERS BUSY THEMSELVES SETTING UP STALLS ETC. SOME TOWNSFOLK ARE BROWSING AND CHECKING OUT THE ATTRACTIONS)

BARNEY: Good evening ladies and gentlemen good evening!(WAITS FOR AUDIENCE TO RESPOND) Now come on you can do better than that. When I say good

evening it's only polite for you to say good evening back to me isn't it?...Well? Let's just try that again...Good Evening ladies and gentlemen! (WAITS FOR AUDIENCE TO RESPOND) And a fine and beautiful evening it is to be sure an' all an' all 'an I wouldn't be dead for quids!..... Welcome to Barneys Fair. Welcome.....(HOLDS HAND UP TO EAR AND ENCOURAGES RESPONSE FROM AUDIENCE)

Did I hear some-body speak?.....Come on now, you can do better that!This is Barneys Fair! And we're all going to have a good time aren't we?..... (WAITS FOR RESPONSE).....?

That fellow there in the front row... You don't sound too sure?.... Who brung him?....Let's try that again.....

Are you all out to have a good time? (HOPEFULLY THEY WILL SHOUT YES)That's better! But I mustn't be forgettin' to introduce me-self.(BIG BOW TO THE AUDIENCE) My name is Barney... Now what's my name...? (WAIT FOR RESPONSE) That's right to be sure ,and we're going to have a good time tonight aren't we? (WAITS FOR AUDIENCE RESPONSE), We are all going to have a good time tonight aren't we? (WAIT FOR BIGGER RESPONSE).....Good! I can tell you're fast learners , sounds like some of you have a head start already! . So here we are then at Barneys Fair! Where are we?(THEY SHOULD SHOUT BARNEYS FAIR,...BARNEY LOOKS SURPRISED) To be sure an' so we are then..'an I could have sworn this was after be in' (.....NAME OF PERFORMANCE VENUE....) ! But just by way of remindin' me of where it is that we're at I'd like for you all to be joinin' me in a little sing a long to get us all in the mood like! So here we go then.....Hit it maestro!
(ALL JOIN IN THIS AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION NUMBER)

MUSIC NO 2.....

(AT END OF SONG STALLHOLDERS BUSY THEMSELVES SETTING UP THEIR STALLS, EXIT TOWNSFOLK , CATHY, WAN AND GRANNIE.)
(ENTER PADDY SWEEPING DOWNSTAGE, SINGING UNACCOMPANIED)

PADDY: Ten green bottles hanging on the wall. Ten green bottles hanging on the wall , Now if one green bottle should accidentally fall. There'd be...There'd be..?

(STOPS SWEEPING AND COUNTS ON HIS FINGERS...) There'd be, there'd be... (RESUMES SWEEPING SLOWLY OBVIOUSLY STILL COUNTING THEN BIG SMILE LIGHTS UP HIS FACE AS) Oh, Danny Boy the pipes, the pipes are calling....

BARNEY: Oh, there you are Paddy. Nellie said you were looking for me?

PADDY: Yeah, Barney I got a message for you from the boxing tent manager.

BARNEY: Well it had better be important. Can't ye see I'm as flat as a postmans arches at the moment, what with the official opening of the fair be in' less than an hour away.

PADDY: Yeah !

BARNEY: So come on then spit it out man, what was it he was after wantin' to tell me then?

PADDY: He said to tell you good-bye.

BARNEY: He what!

PADDY: He said that as they hadn't been paid for over a month they was leavin'.

BARNEY: They what!

PADDY: Then they left!

BARNEY: What! All of them? All of them?

PADDY: Yep! All of 'em!

(PADDY CONTINUES SWEEPING.)

BARNEY: Dear, God! And meself expectin' a reporter here at any moment to interview our champion boxer.

PADDY: (LEANING ON BROOM) Well what are you goin' to do about it Boss?

BARNEY: Let me think, let me think ! Irene! Irene! Where is that wife of mine, this is an emergency, an emergency!

PADDY: You're repeatin' your self boss.

BARNEY: I know, I know!.(SHOUTING) Irene, Irene, where are you?

IRENE: (ENTERS BEHIND HIM) And it's standin' right behind you that I am as usual Barney.(PADDY RESUMES SWEEPING)

BARNEY: Irene, my love so there you are. Now I want you to take Paddy here over to the boxing tent right away and see if you can be a makin' him out to be a champion boxer.....

(PADDY STOPS SWEEPING IN ALARM)

PADDY: But...but I don't know nothing about boxing....

IRENE: Anything about boxing, Paddy, anything!

PADDY: Yeah, that too!

BARNEY: I'll not be a needin' you to box me lad, but would you just be doin' me a favour now and pretend you're after be in' a champion boxer just for today like, 'till I get rid of the reporter.

PADDY: But, but.....

IRENE: Just leave every-thing to me...Come along Paddy..

PADDY: But, boxing? I don't know nothing about.....

(EXIT IRENE , PUSHING OR DRAGGING PADDY)