

Cast

Lord and Lady Herbert	The somewhat foolish owners of Herbert Hall. Vital, dramatic roles, but not too much to learn.
Charles, Margaret, Edwin and Alice	The Herbert children. These are important but undemanding parts
Aunt Josephine	This fearsome lady needs to be played by a talented performer who can deliver the part with energy and style! Sings solo in Miss Featherby-Herbert
Polly	The new kitchen maid. An important character, rather emotional and waif-like. Sings solo in Cheer Up About Your Granny
James and John	The footmen - an entertaining pair; key roles with <u>lots</u> of dialogue. They sing solo (or together) in Cheer Up about Your Granny
Mr Grimshaw	The butler - this disapproving and secretive character plays a key role in the story
The Detective	Important part. Sings solo in In Time For Tea . Doesn't appear until scene 8, so could also play an extra servant in the earlier scenes.

The following are smaller roles, but all have some enjoyable moments;

Miss Phipps	the governess
Mrs Rundle	the housekeeper
The Cook	
Kitty	the housemaid
Kitchen maids 1- 4	
Betty	Lady Herbert's maid
Henry	Lord Herbert's valet
Extra servants	as many as you like

The following characters only appear in Scene 7, so can be cast from amongst your 'extra' servants:

Hotel Manager Waiter Fisherman 1 and 2 Doctor

NB: Lord and Lady Herbert, Betty and Henry only appear in Scenes 1, 7 and 9, so they can also appear as extra servants in other scenes, if you like.

Production Overview

Cast

Songs

<p>Scene 1: You Need a Holiday! Lord and Lady Herbert, Children, Servants, Polly</p>	<p>Song: You Need a Holiday! Lord and Lady Herbert are setting off for a holiday at the seaside. Their large household of servants and children wave them off. The children distract their governess, Miss Phipps, and look forward to doing as they please. Alice, one of the children, meets Polly, who has come to start a new job as kitchen maid.</p>	<p>You Need a Holiday! CD 1/9</p>
<p>Scene 2: In the Kitchen Servants</p>	<p>In the kitchen, the servants are at work. Song: Kitchen Jig. When they realise that even the housekeeper, Mrs Rundle, is having a rest, everyone decides to take things easy.</p>	<p>Kitchen Jig CD 2/10</p>
<p>Scene 3: Cheer up, Polly! James, John, Polly</p>	<p>The footmen, James and John, are in the garden. John reminds James he owes him money (a gambling debt). They notice Polly, who is crying. She explains that she is worried about her grandmother, who can't afford to pay her rent. James and John attempt to cheer Polly up. Song: Cheer up about your Granny!</p>	<p>Cheer Up about your Granny! CD 3/11</p>
<p>Scene 4: Aunt Josephine Arrives Children, Servants, Aunt Josephine</p>	<p>The Children and servants are enjoying the relaxed atmosphere; only Mr Grimshaw, the butler, disapproves. An unexpected guest arrives and introduces herself as Lady Herbert's cousin Josephine. Only Grimshaw recognises her. She summons all the servants and declares that she is taking charge. Song: Miss Featherby-Herbert</p>	<p>Miss Featherby-Herbert CD 4/12</p>
<p>Scene 5: Snooping About James, John, Aunt Josephine</p>	<p>James and John discuss the unwelcome new arrival, who is making everyone work ridiculously hard. James pays John the money he owes him, but won't say where he got the money. Aunt Josephine appears and the footmen hastily return to work.</p>	

<p>Scene 6: The Atrocious Crime Servants, Aunt Josephine, Children</p>	<p>In the kitchen, the servants are trying to keep up with Aunt Josephine's demands. Polly is much happier and explains that she has paid her Granny's rent. The servants look forward to being paid. But Mrs Rundle discovers that the safe has been forced open and the money for their wages has gone. Song: Hunt them High.</p> <p>Alice goes to call the police. Money is discovered in John's pocket, and the servants reveal that Polly has somehow found money to pay her Granny's rent. Polly refuses to say where the money came from and rushes off in tears.</p>	<p>Hunt them High CD 5/13</p>
<p>Scene 7: At the Seaside Lord/ Lady Herbert, Betty, Henry, Hotel Manager, Waiter, Fishermen, Doctor</p>	<p>Lord and Lady Herbert are at the seaside; Lady Herbert is full of complaints and the servants are very tired of her. Lord Herbert tries to help two fishermen and falls into the sea. He sneezes, is rushed back to the hotel and a doctor is called. Lady Herbert decides they will return home. Song: Who Needs a Holiday?</p>	<p>Who Needs a Holiday? CD 6/14</p>
<p>Scene 8: The Detective Detective, Aunt Josephine, Servants, Children</p>	<p>A Detective arrives to investigate. Polly refuses again to say where her money came from. John's unexplained money is traced back to James; James reveals that he saw Grimshaw in a pub with an unknown lady, and Grimshaw gave him the money to keep quiet. Other servants gather, keen to make statements. Song: In time for tea.</p> <p>Grimshaw confirms that he gave James the money. The Detective decides he is ready to make an arrest, and Alice is horrified to learn that Polly is the prime suspect.</p>	<p>In Time For Tea CD 7/15</p>
<p>Scene 9: Guilty! Servants, Aunt Josephine, Children, Detective, Lord and Lady Herbert</p>	<p>The servants gather to hear the verdict. The Detective is about to arrest Polly when Alice reveals that she gave Polly the money herself. Suddenly, Lord and Lady Herbert enter, and identify aunt Josephine as an imposter; the Detective arrests her. In the confusion her wig falls off and the missing money is found beneath it. James recognises her as Grimshaw's companion from the pub: she turns out to be his sister. The pair are dragged off, still bickering. The servants can be paid their wages, and normality returns to Herbert Hall. Song: What a Palaver/We need a holiday</p>	<p>What a Palaver/We need a holiday CD 8/16</p>

Victorian Villainy

Scene 1: You Need a Holiday!

(Enter the Servants and Herbert children. They point and stare at audience members with concern, as they sing:)

Song 1: You Need a Holiday

All

CD track 1/9

**You're looking terrible
Your skin is pale
You've got big bags beneath your eyes
Your hair is turning grey
You don't look well
There's only one thing we'd advise:**

(As the music changes, Lord and Lady Herbert enter; bags, suitcases, garments and seaside props are produced in a bustle of activity. All cast become animated and help the Herberts into coats, pack items into cases, etc)

**You need a holiday
A jolly holiday
To put a smile on your face
Dump the daily grind
Leave it all behind
You could be relaxing in your own
Little bit of heaven**

**You need a holiday
A jolly holiday
And you'll rejoin the human race
Time flies, so let's get cracking
We'll help! You with your packing
'Cos we need a holiday too!**

**You need a holiday (You could be...)
A jolly holiday (By the sea...)
To put a smile on your face
Dump the daily grind
Leave it all behind**

song continued

**You could be relaxing in your own
Little bit of heaven**

**You need a holiday (You could be...)
A jolly holiday (By the sea...)
And you'll rejoin the human race
[Spoken] about time too!
Time flies, so let's get cracking
We'll help! You with your packing
'Cos we need a holiday too!
We need a holiday too!**

(The suitcases are packed: the servants, organized by Mrs Rundle and Mr Grimshaw, line up ready to wave off their employers. The Children are in a separate group, with Miss Phipps. Betty and Henry stay close to the Herberts)

Lady Herbert: Betty! Have you packed my tiara?
Betty: Of course, your ladyship. It's in that box there.
Lady Herbert: And my blue silk dress? And my brand new parasol? You'd better check.
Betty: I'm sure everything's packed.
Lady Herbert: Don't you think I should take some more dresses?
Henry: There isn't room, your ladyship!
Lady Herbert: Oh, very well. We shall manage.
Margaret: I've brought your hat, Mother.

(Margaret helps Lady Herbert to put on and adjust her hat. Betty sits down heavily on a suitcase, exhausted)

Henry: What a performance!
Betty: I've had enough already.
Henry: They won't even like it at the seaside.
Betty: They'll just want to come home.
Henry: I give it a week, at most.
Lady Herbert: Betty! Don't sit on the luggage!

Betty: Sorry, your ladyship.

Lord Herbert: Now! Where are the children?

Children: Over here!

Lord Herbert: Ah yes! I recognise you now. I trust you will all behave yourselves while we are away.

Children: Yes, father.

Charles: Ow!

Margaret: Be quiet!

Charles: He trod on my foot!

Edwin: I did not!

Lord Herbert: Ahem! Children should be seen and not heard!

Lady Herbert: We don't want the servants to have a moment's bother.

Mrs Rundle: Don't you worry, Lady Herbert, we'll be fine.

Alice: Can't we come with you, mother?

Lady Herbert: Oh dear, no. We have so many people to visit. You wouldn't enjoy it.

Lord Herbert: And you must keep up your lessons with Miss Phipps.

Miss Phipps: Quite so. You have much to learn.

Children: Yes, Miss Phipps.

Grimshaw: Your carriage is waiting, sir.

Lord Herbert: Come along! Time to go.

Lady Herbert: Oh! What fun! Goodbye!

(Lord and Lady Herbert exit, waving, to a chorus of goodbyes. Betty and Henry struggle along behind with their luggage, perhaps helped by James and John. Exit all servants except Miss Phipps.)

Charles: Great! They've gone! What shall we do first?

Edwin: I'm going to climb the trees in the orchard.

Alice: I'm going to fly my kite.

Margaret: I'm going to go and try on Mother's dresses.

Miss Phipps: But children! Your lessons!

Alice: Wouldn't you like to sit in the rose garden and read your book, Miss Phipps? *(Steering her towards exit)*

Edwin: It's a lovely morning for it.

Miss Phipps: But... well... I suppose the lessons can wait. *(Exit)*

Charles: Come on! *(Exit children in the opposite direction)*

(Enter Polly, with suitcase)

Polly: This must be the place. *(Looks around nervously. Gets letter out and reads it aloud)*

"I can offer young Polly a job as kitchen maid at Herbert Hall. She will have to work hard, but she'll have a roof over her head. Tell her to come to the back door and ask for Mrs Rundle."

... but where's the back door?

(Enter Alice, with kite)

Alice: Hello! Who are you?

Polly: *(curtseying)* I've come for a job, Miss. In the kitchen.

Alice: Don't look so scared! I'll show you the way.

Polly: Thank you, Miss.

Alice: I'm not really allowed to talk to the servants, but my parents are away.

Polly: I don't have any parents.

Alice: Oh, I'm sorry!

Polly: My granny looks after me. Which way's the back door?

Alice: Let me show you. *(Exit together)*

Scene 2 *In the Kitchen*

(Enter Servants, and set to work)

Song 2: Kitchen Jig

Servants

CD track 2/10

Verse 1:

Boiling, baking
 Stirring and shaking
 Keep moving to the kitchen jig
 Rolling, kneading
 Fam'ly needs feeding
 Keep moving to the kitchen jig
 Peeling, grating
 Pile it on the plate-ing
 Stewing, steaming
 No time for dreaming
 When you're cooking up something big
 Keep moving to the kitchen jig

Verse 2:

Basting, roasting
 Butter-on-toasting
 Keep moving to the kitchen jig
 Chopping, slicing
 Slather on the icing
 Keep moving to the kitchen jig
 Dishes flying
 Washing up and drying
 Glasses gleaming
 No time for dreaming
 When you're cooking up something big
 Keep moving to the kitchen jig

Upstairs, all they ever do
 Is snap their pretty little fingers
 Downstairs
 We'll be running round like *(stamp, stamp, stamp)*
[shouted] HEADLESS CHICKENS!

(Everyone runs around clucking, doing chicken impressions. Bell rings: freeze)

[Repeat verse 1] Boiling, baking...

Keep moving to the kitchen jig
 Keep moving to the kit - chen - jig!