

ACT ONE
SCENE FOUR

(FARQUAAD'S TORTURE CHAMBER.
His guards march in as we transition.)

GUARDS

Farquaad is on his way.
He's on his way.
He is nearly here.
He's down the hall. Getting close.
He is just outside.
Behind the door.
He is on his way.
Here he is. Right here.

(A door far upstage is thrown open to reveal a terrifying, back-lit figure. A spot-light hits him – KA-CHUNK! We see that Lord Farquaad is only four feet tall.)

FARQUAAD

Thelonius, I'm ready. Bring in the cookie!

(Familiar cries of a terrified Gingerbread Man, who is wheeled in on a shrouded cart.)

VOICE OF GINGY

Ohhhh, gosh. Uh-oh, what's happening *now*? Oooo, this is scary.
Ohhhh, geez. Ohh, no.

(The shroud is whipped off to reveal the petrified Giny on a cookie sheet. His legs have been broken off. Farquaad relishes the moment.)

FARQUAAD

Ha ha heh heh heh...

VOICE OF GINGY

Oh-no-oh-no-oh-nooo....
(and then he sees Farquaad)
Ohhhhh, it's *you*...

FARQUAAD

"Run, run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me – I'm the Gingerbread Man!"

GINGY

Look what you've done to my legs! You're a monster!

FARQUAAD

I'm not the monster here, *you* are. You and the rest of that fairy tale trash poisoning my perfect kingdom.

GINGY

It's *not* a kingdom! Because you're not a king!

FARQUAAD

Oh, but I will be. Just as soon as I find a princess to marry. And I hear you know of one. Tell me where she is!

GINGY

Eat me!

(spits in Farquaad's face)

GUARDS

Ahhh!

(Farquaad's guards all pull out torture devices – a rolling pin, a giant spatula, an egg-beater, a carton of milk, etc..)

FARQUAAD

(through clenched teeth)

Wait! I've tried to be fair to you creatures, but now my patience has reached its end!

GINGY

(stalling)

Uh-uh, uhh, okay, well, maybe I have heard *tell* of a princess.

FARQUAAD

From who?

GINGY

Do you know the Muffin Man?

FARQUAAD

The Muffin Man?

GINGY

The Muffin Man.

FARQUAAD

Yes. I know the Muffin Man. Who lives on Drury Lane?

GINGY

Well, I heard it from the Muffin Man.

FARQUAAD
The Muffin Man?!

GINGY
The Muffin Man!

FARQUAAD
(thoughtful, to himself)
He heard it from the Muffin Man...

GINGY
Can I go now?

FARQUAAD
You haven't told me where she is!

GINGY
I can't!

FARQUAAD
You must!

GINGY
I won't!

FARQUAAD
Tell me or I'll—!
(reaches for Gingly's buttons)

GINGY
No! Not the buttons! Not my gumdrop buttons!

FARQUAAD
Then where is the princess?!

GINGY
(broken)
Okay...I'll tell you. She's a day's walk from here. In a dragon-guarded castle, surrounded by hot boiling lava.

FARQUAAD
Well that sounds dangerous.

GINGY
Ya want a princess or not?!

FARQUAAD

Go on.

GINGY

In the highest room in the tallest tower, you'll find a fiery red-head named Princess Fiona.

FARQUAAD

Ooo, Princess Fiona. She's sounds perfect.
Except for that dragon and lava thing. I'll have to find someone else to go...

GINGY

(to himself)

Big surprise.

FARQUAAD

(in his own revelry)

I shall make Fiona my Queen, and Duloc will finally have the perfect King!

(to his underlings)

Captain, round up your men, summon the citizens, and bring that cookie to the swamp!

GINGY

Swamp?! That's the thanks I get?!

FARQUAAD

Thelonius, tell the Royal Coiffuer I need to get my hair pressed.
We're going to get a queen!

GUARDS

*Farquaad will get a queen.
He'll get a queen.
He has a plan.
Someone will go. Against their will.
They will fetch our queen.
We'll draw a name.
What a plan...he...has!
It...can't...fail!
Good...plan!*