



# the Hatmaker's Daughters

*A new musical comedy fairy tale*  
*By Aaron Emke*

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS (in order of appearance)

### 1. NARRATOR.

**Gender:** Either  
**Scenes:** 7  
**Lines:** Approximately 40  
**Songs:** None

### 2. McBAUM, the Hatmaker.

**Gender:** Male  
**Scenes:** 1  
**Lines:** None  
**Songs:** None

### 3. APRIL, the widow of McBaum.

**Gender:** Female  
**Scenes:** 4  
**Lines:** Approximately 50  
**Songs:** Ensemble only

### 4. JUNE, elder daughter of McBaum.

**Gender:** Female  
**Scenes:** 5  
**Lines:** Approximately 75  
**Songs:** One solo, one duet, plus ensemble

### 5. MAY, younger daughter of McBaum.

**Gender:** Female  
**Scenes:** 5  
**Lines:** Approximately 80  
**Songs:** One solo, plus ensemble

### 6. JOHANSEN, a would-be hat customer.

**Gender:** Either  
**Scenes:** 1  
**Lines:** 3  
**Songs:** Ensemble only

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### CAST OF CHARACTERS, continued

7. **VIRAGO**, the forest witch.  
**Gender:** Female  
**Scenes:** 5  
**Lines:** Approximately 70  
**Songs:** One solo
8. **QUEEN BABS**, monarch of Fredonia.  
**Gender:** Female  
**Scenes:** 4  
**Lines:** Approximately 70  
**Songs:** None
9. **SHEILA**, a palace servant girl.  
**Gender:** Female  
**Scenes:** 3  
**Lines:** 3  
**Songs:** Ensemble only
10. **CHIEF MINISTER**, an official functionary of Queen Babs.  
**Gender:** Either  
**Scenes:** 3  
**Lines:** Approximately 15  
**Songs:** Ensemble only
11. **PRINCE VINCE**, son of Queen Babs.  
**Gender:** Male  
**Scenes:** 5  
**Lines:** Approximately 75  
**Songs:** One solo and one duet
12. **ROYAL HERALD**, servant of Queen Babs.  
**Gender:** Either  
**Scenes:** 3  
**Lines:** 4  
**Songs:** Ensemble only
13. **ROYAL FOOTMAN**, another servant of Queen Babs.  
**Gender:** Either  
**Scenes:** 3  
**Lines:** 4  
**Songs:** Ensemble only
14. **PRINCESS VALETTA** of Sylvania, fiancée of Prince Vince.  
**Gender:** Female  
**Scenes:** 2  
**Lines:** Approximately 30  
**Songs:** One solo



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### CAST OF CHARACTERS, continued

**15. TROLL**, a loathsome and dangerous forest creature.

**Gender:** Either

**Scenes:** 1

**Lines:** None

**Songs:** None

**ENSEMBLE** — various hat shop customers, palace servants, etc.

**NOTE:** In the “Extended Cast” version of the script, there are eight additional McBaum daughters:

**January, February, March, July, September, October, November, and December.** They have about four or five lines each.

Also, rather than merely one Troll, the “Extended Cast” version features a whole band of an indefinite number of **Trolls**.



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## STORY OUTLINE

### ACT I

#### Scene 1: McBaum's Hat Shop

The **Narrator** introduces the story, which takes place long ago in the kingdom of Fredonia, where a Hatmaker named **McBaum** has a hat shop. McBaum lives with his wife, **April**, and his two daughters, **May** and **June**. McBaum is a very talented Hatmaker, so **Customers** come from all over to buy his beautiful hats.

**Song: "The Hats of McBaum" (Hat shop customers).**

But then McBaum dies unexpectedly, leaving his wife and daughters alone. The Narrator explains that the older daughter, June, is a very smart girl, but that the younger daughter, May, is not quite so bright.

May has trouble remembering that she, as a character in the story, isn't allowed to speak directly to the audience. Several times, the Narrator has to gently remind May not to break the "fourth wall."

April tries to keep the hat business going, but her hatmaking skills leave much to be desired and nobody wants to buy her ridiculously ugly hats. The McBaum family struggles to make a living.

June longs to break away from the drudgery of the humble hat shop.

**Song: "The World Beyond" (June).**

May is confused as to why June is allowed to address the audience in song, and the Narrator explains that in musicals, songs are the exception to the "fourth wall" rule.

April and June head out to the forest to find feathers to use in their hat designs, leaving May alone in the shop. The wicked witch **Virago** enters. Turning on the charm, Virago expresses concern about the McBaum family's finances. She offers to use her influence with Queen Babs to convince the Queen to come to McBaum's hat shop and buy all of their hats. May is thrilled by this prospect.



In return, Virago says that she'd like an apprentice. She makes the job of apprentice witch sound exciting and glamorous, and May is eager to sign up. But Virago doesn't want May; she wants June to be her apprentice. May is disappointed not to be chosen herself, but agrees that her sister June deserves a break.

Virago convinces May to sign a contract to officially make June the apprentice witch. Once the contract is signed, Virago leaves, cackling wickedly, just before April and June return.



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### Scene 2: Palace Throne Room

The Narrator talks us through the transition to the lavish palace at the center of Fredonia, where all of the **Palace Servants** are busily preparing for Queen Babs to return from a trip.

**Song: “The Palace March” (Palace servants).**

**Queen Babs** arrives and immediately orders a glass of her favorite beverage, poppy nectar, from her servant girl **Sheila**.



The **Chief Minister** of Fredonia tries to warn the Queen that Fredonia has a growing problem with Trolls. But the Queen refuses to listen; she has something important to discuss with her son, **Prince Vince**.

When the servants have left her alone with the Prince, Queen Babs excitedly notifies him that the time has come for his pre-arranged marriage to Princess Valetta of the nearby kingdom of Sylvania.

Prince Vince protests that he doesn't want to marry Princess Valetta because he isn't in love with her.

**Song: “The Woman For Me” (Prince Vince).**

Queen Babs is adamant that the arranged marriage *will* happen. Prince Vince storms out of the room.

Virago appears and offers Queen Babs congratulations on her son's upcoming nuptials. Virago suggests that Queen Babs buy some new hats from McBaum's hat shop to wear at the wedding festivities.

Queen Babs objects that the quality of the shop's products has plummeted since the death of McBaum. Virago secretly pours a potion into Queen Babs' drink, which casts a spell on her and gives her a frenzied craving for McBaum hats.

Queen Babs summons her servants and hastily arranges a royal visit to McBaum's hat shop. She brings Prince Vince along.

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### Scene 3: McBaum's Hat Shop

The Narrator explains that the McBaum family is in dire straits. They haven't sold a hat in ages, they're flat broke, and for dinner they can only manage one bean each. June exits to take out the trash.

Queen Babs arrives at the shop with much fanfare, accompanied by Prince Vince and her entourage of servants. The Queen begins buying hats, one after another, paying April a bag of gold for each hat. April is shocked and delighted.

Queen Babs asked to be shown to the storeroom so that she can buy even more hats, and she sends Prince Vince out to get more help carrying hats.

Prince Vince literally runs into June at the door. They hit it off immediately; in fact, it might just be love at first sight.

**Song: "Duet" (June and Prince Vince).**



Prince Vince invites June to meet her at midnight at the palace.

Queen Babs, having bought every single hat in the entire shop, leaves with Prince Vince and all of her servants.

The McBaums are thrilled by all the gold they have earned from their hats. June is still dazed at having been asked out by the Prince.

Virago appears and observes that since the Queen has bought all of the hats in the shop, thus fulfilling her end of the agreement, June is now Virago's slave. Over the family's desperate protests, Virago forcibly takes June away.

The Narrator wraps up the act, playing up the suspense of the cliffhanger.

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### ACT II

#### Scene 1: Forest – One Week Later

The Narrator tells us that June is miserable as the slave of the wicked witch Virago, being dressed in rags and dragged around the forest collecting disgusting ingredients for potions.

Virago tells June to be extra careful with the Porcupine Powder, since it attracts Trolls.

April and May arrive and greet June warmly. June is angry at May for getting her into this mess. She asks May to redeem herself by finding Prince Vince and telling him what has happened so that he can rescue her. She suggests that May could reach the Prince by infiltrating the palace staff.

After the others leave, May stays behind to reflect on her regret for what she has done to her sister. She is determined to “redeemulate” herself for her mistake.

**Song: “Redeemulate Myself” (May).**

The Narrator takes us back to the palace.

#### Scene 2: Palace Throne Room

**Princess Valetta** is visiting to prepare for the royal wedding. She and Queen Babs are very excited, but Prince Vince is glum. The Queen asks her servant Sheila to bring a bottle of poppy nectar for the two love birds, then leaves Vince and Valetta alone together.

The Princess happily babbles about their wedding plans, until she notices that Prince Vince is unenthusiastic. When pressed, he admits that he is in love with June instead.

Princess Valetta sings of how she has been looking forward to her marriage to Vince ever since she was a little girl, but she doesn't want to marry him if it will make him miserable.

**Song: “Happy With Me” (Princess Valetta).**

Prince Vince gloomily explains that June doesn't love him, because she stood him up for their date. So he might as well marry Princess Valetta.

May McBaum enters, disguised in Sheila's uniform. She tells Prince Vince that June has been enslaved by the witch Virago. Valetta encourages Vince to rescue the woman he loves. The Prince valiantly draws his sword and rushes off to rescue June.

The Narrator covers the transition to the Witch's cave.

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### Scene 3: Virago's Cave

Virago supervises as June organizes her jars of potion ingredients, including the Porcupine Powder. Then she chains June to a rack and prepares to go to bed.

Prince Vince bursts in dramatically. He threatens Virago with his sword and demands that she release June. But Virago isn't the least bit frightened; as she gleefully points out, his sword has been transformed into a baguette.

Virago chains Prince Vince up to the rack, along with June, and sings a celebratory song about now having captured *two* slaves.

#### **Song: "Virago's Song" (Virago).**

Virago exits, leaving June and Prince Vince alone. Suddenly a vicious **Troll** enters the cave and attacks the Prince, biting him in the leg.

June, thinking fast, grabs the Porcupine Powder and sprinkles a bit of it on her chain. The troll smells the powder and bites through the chain, thus freeing June.

Virago enters to see what all the commotion is, and June flings the Porcupine Powder in her face. The Troll immediately pounces on Virago and eats her up.

June frees Prince Vince from his chains and, since his leg is injured, helps him escape.





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### Scene 4: Palace Throne Room

The Narrator tells us that June has gotten Prince Vince safely back to the palace, and that his leg has been examined and treated by the royal doctors, whose prognosis is that he will quickly make a full recovery. Prince Vince has a cast on his leg in this scene.

Queen Babs tells Prince Vince how proud she is that he bravely slew the witch and rescued the damsel in distress. Vince protests that it is actually June who deserves the credit for all of the heroic slaying and rescuing.

The Queen is happy to get on with the business of planning the royal wedding of her son to Princess Valetta. Prince Vince firmly insists that, although Valetta is a true friend, it is June that he loves and June that he will marry. Queen Babs is equally insistent that the Prince will marry Princess Valetta. After all, this wedding has been arranged ever since they were both children. Besides, she says, Valetta is madly in love with him, and a Princess must never be disappointed.

Princess Valetta steps in and pretends that she is no longer in love with Prince Vince, and that she refuses to marry him. Queen Babs is shocked to hear this, but she concedes that she can't force her son to marry the Princess if she declines to participate.

June and Prince Vince announce that *they* intend to marry, and Queen Babs is delighted that she will be able to throw a big wedding after all. All of the servants busily decorate the palace for the royal celebration as guests arrive from all over Fredonia.

#### **Song: "A Wedding" (Ensemble).**

At the climax of the song, June and Prince Vince walk down the aisle. June McBaum is now Princess June.

As the music continues, the Narrator tell us that:

- Princess Valetta, although sorry to see the man she loved married to another woman, gets a message immediately after the wedding, telling her that she has been cast as the star in a major Hollywood movie, so she happily rushes off. The palace servants are very happy for her, even though they've never heard of Hollywood, or of movies.
- When May McBaum pretended to work at the palace, she did such a good job that she has now been promoted to managerial position.
- April McBaum has decided to retire from designing hats, a decision that is cheered by everyone in Fredonia, because her hats were really ugly. April has decided to design shoes instead. She shows us a pair of shoes that are just as bad as her hats, and everyone groans. But Queen Babs, apparently still in the throes of Virago's spell, loves the shoes and immediately orders many pairs.

As the song swells to a conclusion, we are assured that everyone lives happily ever after.