Malfare The (Slightly) Musical

(Abridged version of Malfare the Musical)

V. 1 (Minus Malfare 4 & Several Songs)

Act 1
Scene 1

Narrator: Long ago, in a land of myth and a time of magic, there lived the fares in peace and prosperity. There was no work, nor deadlines, nor hangovers. The malfares, midfares, and assorted other weird ones all lived happily together, thinking these days of joy could never end. But they were all of them deceived, for another fare existed. Deep in the land of London, in the fires of Mount Muswell, the Dark Lord Welfare dwelt, stewing in anger against all things fun and merry. Till one day Welfare visited the Meduseld of Malfare and gifted them a bewitched cask of mead - and non-alcoholic mead alternative; sending the great guardians of the good times into an everlasting slumber.
The other fares were too weak to resist, and one by one they fell under the cruel rule of Welfare. Forced to regularly get 8 hours of sleep and eat 3 full meals a day, they suffered for centuries. But then something happened that Welfare did not expect, the amazingly strong and experienced livers of Malfare broke through that evil poison and at last they began to stir.

[In the ruins of the Meduseld of Malfare, malfares are scattered around lying on the floor]

Malfare 1: Uhhh… my head

Malfare 2: What the boogles? What's going on?

Malfare 3: uuuuuuuuggggghhhhh…

Malfare 1: [Getting to feet] My god, what happened to the mead hall? It's as if it's completely disappeared

Malfare 2: Or we had no budget

Malfare 3: Shush, he's right. [Overacting] It's completely gone!

Malfare 1: Think, think, we were singing…

Malfare 2: We were dancing…

Malfare 3: We were definitely drinking!

Malfare 2: But what were we drinking

Malfare 3: I… I don't remember the name. Some weird blue thing given to us by…

All Malfares: WELFARE!

Malfare 1: [Spoken]That settles that then, come on we need to get to town to see how long we were out. And what Welfare's been up to

Narrator: The Malfares heroically walk towards the local town, Oxfared, hoping to find some familiar faces

Scene 2

[Oxfared, midfares and warfare are both sat down, midfare 2 is doing some craft]

Midfare 1: Another dull day

Midfare 2: I'm having a great time

[Malfares enter]

Midfare 1: My god, this is impossible

Midfare 2: Clearly quite possible

Malfare 3: Hey it's the midfares! And warfare! Can you tell us what happened?

Malfare 2: Yeah, where's our mead hall gone and [pathetically] why does my head hurt?

Midfare 1: You don't… Oh of course you wouldn't.

Malfare 1: Wouldn't what?

Midfare 1: Wouldn't know what happened

Malfare 2: Well what has happened?

Midfare 1: Many things

Midfare 2: Very little

Malfare 3: Helpful as always…

Song:
Midfare 1:
Welfare has taken over
Fair Fareland no more free
The Welfare Wapentake
Has conquered you , and you, and me

He’s brought about such tyranny
With draconian laws
With no thought yet to balance
His rule is full of flaws

Midfare 1 and Warfare:
Draconian laws
Rules full of flaws
And why? Because
He thinks that he knows best

Warfare:
He’s banned all battle practice
Sword-fighting he has shelved
He says we can’t be trusted
Not to hurt ourselves

He’s stopped all our stickwrestling
My favourite pastime
He’s banished bold Sir Badger
For a very long, long time

Midfare 1 and Warfare:
Draconian laws
Rules full of flaws
And why? Because
He thinks that he knows best

Spoken:

Malfare 2: Draconian laws?

Midfare 1: Aye, bedtime’s at 11 o’clock, spirits are banned, and dancing is only allowed on Wednesdays between half 12 and 2:20

All Malfares: WHAT! That’s awful!

Malfare 2: [quietly] Dancing…

Malfare 1: Such tyranny cannot be allowed to stand!

Malfare 2: [quietly] Only on wednesdays…

Malfare 3: We have to do something

Malfare 2: [quietly] Between half 12 and 2:20

Midfare 1: You could bring back the balance

Malfare 1: We could bring back fun. I think this Welfare Wapentake is in need of a Malfare Mutiny.

Warfare: You mean…

Malfare 1: Revolution! Good news midfares, your saviours are here!

Midfare 1: Yippee!

Song:
All Malfares:
Malfare Mutiny!
They've suffered long enough
Malfare Mutiny!
We're gonna call his bluff
Malfare Mutiny!
Now that we're finally back!
Malfare Mutiny!
Swift and hard we'll attack

Midfare 1:
Midfare Mutiny
Balance shall be restored

Warfare:
Warfare Mutiny
At last I'm no more bored

All:
Malfare Mutiny
His foulest reign shall end
Malfare Mutiny

Warfare:
His flesh we'll gladly rend

Malfare 1: Right, come on. Let's round up some more victims of wellness

[They march off stage with purpose]

Act 2
Scene 1
Narrator: Meanwhile, on foulest Mount Muswell.

Welfare: Awake! Are they? Rebelling! Are they?

Welfare [addressing audience]: I mean honestly, I'm not even that bad. I just want everyone to look after themselves! They need me, they need direction. Look, I can explain. The Malfares are… morons. They've withered their brains with whisky and, and! That teensy, weensy coma I put them in is the first time they've had more than 4 hours sleep in years! Don't even get me started on the other fares. The midfares are bickering buffoons and warfare just wants to stab people for wellness' sake. Government needs, a strong man of deeds to keep everyone in line and everything in order. That way everyone gets to be happy. And as for the other fares… well it'll be obvious once you see them why my intervention is necessary. I'm not the bad guy here!

[Paper airplane (or crumpled ball for accuracy) gets thrown at him from offstage, he unravels and reads it]

Welfare: Huh, interesting. More proof I'm the hero, the hero always wins.

[He strolls of stage looking smug]

Scene 2
[Forest, Nofair is crying and fanfare is playing a little kazoo or something]

Narrator: Now that we've had the villain's self-indulging monologue, back to the heroes of this tale. And ooo look, they're about to meet some more victims of Welfare, who is the villain.

Song:

Nofair: Oh peaing and nutting all over the place
No tasty fresh brioche to shove in my face
My hunger is hanging straight over my head
Like a sword of damn Damocles, hung by a thread

[Sad kazoo solo]

Just give me, oh give me, my brill lil brioche
So sweet, and so fluffy, my favourite nosh
Oh I cannot eat peanuts, they poison me so
And I don't want nowt else, but that sweet, tasty dough

[Even sadder kazoo solo]

Oh I could eat some pasta, all covered in cheese
Or maybe bananas, I like words with b's
But my heart is set, on that sweet baker's ware
So give me my brioche, it's just no fair!

[The malfares, midfare 1 and warfare walk on stage]

Spoken:

Malfare 2: Nofair! Fanfare! How good to see you!

Fanfare: [plays kazoo enthusiastically]

Nofair: Is it good? Is it? Is anything in the whole world possibly good at all?

Malfare 2: Wow, at least some things haven't changed

Warfare: Yeah, he's still a whiny little -

Malfare 1: Of course it's good! Malfare's here! And we're gonna bring the light back into your life honey

Malfare 2: They're trying to say we're staging a rebellion against Welfare and we need you [does Kitchener pose]

Fanfare: [plays kazoo happily]

Nofair: Oh why! Why bother, what's the point! It's pointless, like a circle, a pointlessly pointless circle of circular pointlessness

Malfare 3: Oh cheer up, Welfare can't possibly beat us all

Nofair: Yes he can!

Malfare 3: How?

Nofair: 'Cause life's no fair! [stomps foot like a toddler having a tantrum]

Malfare 2: Come on, what's with all the whinging?

Nofair: Welfare said I wrote too much horror poetry and it was making people sad, so he cursed me so any brioche I touched turned to peanuts!

Malfare 3: And?

Nofair: I hate peanuts!

Fanfare: [plays kazoo sadly]

Malfare 2: Oh that cruel welfare!

Malfare 1: What can we do?

Fanfare: [plays a little tune]

Malfare 3: That's right Fanfare, we can reverse the curse with our own magic

Midfare 1: What magic?

Malfare 1: The magic of friendship!

[group hug, or just high-fiving]

Midfare 1: Did it work?

Malfare 3: Here Nofair, touch this brioche I baked earlier

Malfare 2: When did you have time to -

Malfare 3: Shush

Nofair: I… I can touch it

Fanfare: [plays kazoo happily]

Nofair: [takes a bite] I can bite it

Fanfare: [plays kazoo more happily]

Nofair: [swallows] I can eat it!

Fanfare: [plays kazoo even more happily]

Nofair: Brioche time is back baby!

[Trainfare enters]

Trainfare: Need a ride?

Malfare 2: Great, that's convenient. And we can practise our fighting skills on the way!

Warfare: You mean -

Malfare 2: Yep, time for a training montage!

[Training montage, on a train, they exit the stage]

Scene 3

[Outside Mount Muswell, fire everywhere]

Narrator: After a long journey, which mostly ended up as a rail replacement bus montage, our heroes finally reach the foul Mount Muswell.

Trainfare: Right we're here, everybody off

Warfare: What's that smell?

Midfare 1: The foul stench is that of London, a vile bog that stretches for miles around Mount Muswell

Malfare 1: What sort of man would live in a place like this?

Welfare: [yelling] A well one

[Welfare enters]

Welfare: Bog bathing does wonders for the skin you know

Fanfare: [plays kazoo nervously]

All the Malfares: You! [pointing]

Welfare: I'm surprised to see you all so spritely, I guess I underestimated those overworked livers of yours.

Malfare 2: And that will be your undoing

Malfare 1: Malfare, attack!

[Brief fight where the rebels are getting the upper hand (except midfare 2 who is just sewing in the background, against welfare's sorcery, until…]

Welfare: Do it now, scoundrel

[Midfare 1 pulls a lever and a cage falls around nofair, fanfare, trainfare, warfare and midfare 2, or again whatever is possible with zero budget]

Fanfare: [surprised kazoo noise]

Midfare 2: You traitor, we were winning!

Nofair: No fair!

Midfare 1: Sorry, but my allegiance is to balance. Not you

Welfare: Yes, and now for my greatest spell yet. To banish all the malfares to the land of Tenbury Wellsness Retreat, where alcohol is banned and 8 hours of meditation per day is mandatory!

Malfare 1: You bastard!

Malfare 2: That doesn't sound too bad

Welfare: And dancing is banned too!

Malfare 2: What!

Welfare: Wippity wop, wippity weat, send these fools to the wellness retreat!

[Bright flash of light, or whatever is possible with zero budget, everyone leaves the stage except the Malfares]

Act 3

Scene 1

[The Malfares wake up in the mystical realm]

Malfare 2: Uhhh my head…

Malfare 3: I can't believe we lost

Malfare 1:
Short, sad Malfare song
Short, sad Malfare song
Oh what, oh what, oh what went wrong
Short, sad Malfare song

Malfare 2:
Short, sad Malfare song
Short, sad Malfare song
We tried to fight, but couldn't last long
Short, sad Malfare song

Malfare 3:
Oh Welfare's dark magic
Our fate now so tragic
Trapped away in this land I can't stand it

Malfare 1:
How midfare betrays

Malfare 2:
To balance, a slave

All:
He's doomed us all to a sober existence
He's doomed us all
He's doomed us all
He's doomed

We’re doomed
We’re doooooooooommmmmed!!

Spoken:
[distant jingling]

Malfare 2: What’s that? In the distance?

Malfare 1: Someone else is here?

Malfare 3: Maybe they’re friendly

Malfare 2: Or a servant of Welfare, sent to torment us

[Bells get nearer]

Malfare 1: The bells are approaching, don’t let this monster speak. They will put a spell on us

[They all go to attack, but are beaten back by a bright light, it fades revealing Mayfair]

Malfare 1: It cannot be

Malfare 2: Ganda-

Malfare 3 [interrupting]: Mayfair!

Mayfair: Mayfair? Yes, that is what they once called me.

Malfare 3: Where have you been? We’ve all missed you so much!

Mayfair: Oh… I’m sorry! Has it been that long? Well what matters is I’ve come back to you now, at the turn of the tide

All Malfares: Huh?

[Mayfair singing]

Oh little Malfares, poor little Malfares
I see what has occurred
Cruel old Welfare, horrible Welfare
Has banished you? Absurd!

He was once my student!
Don’t you know? Don’t you know?
I loved and cherished him so
I taught him spells, enchantments, he flourished
But all his joy, he let go

A warped heart, a warped mind, a perfectly healthy liver!
It led him down, a dark, dark path, to the alcohol-free beer river!

[Talking]

Mayfair: He knew he couldn't defeat me head on so he tricked me, distracted me with a particularly nice piece of tablet weaving and while I was admiring the patterns and the weft and so on he performed a ritual to send me here. Oh how silly of me!

Malfare 1: He tricked us too, the damn coward]

Malfare 3: You've got to help us Mayfair, you're our only hope

Mayfair: Hmm, it is possible… But my magic is too weak here. I draw my strength from mirth and there's just none in Tenbury Wellsfare, none at all!

Malfare 1: Now hang on, we have plenty of mirth. Don't we guys

Other Malfares: Yeah…

Malfare 1: Ok, maybe not right now. But we could make some

Malfare 2: We could dance? A circle dance around you while you cast the spell

Mayfair: Yes that could work, oh! But dancing is outlawed here, if the crabs catch you you'll all be snipped so badly you won't be able to sit down for a month

Malfare 3: That's a chance we'll have to take

Malfare 2: Ok guys, follow my lead

[Singing]

Mayfair: There's a spell I know

Malfares: A spell you know

Mayfair: That could get you out

Malfares: That could get us out

Mayfair: If only I could remember…

Malfares: Please could you quickly remember

Mayfair: Ummm…

Malfares (nervously): Ummm….

Mayfair: Ummm….

Malfares (nervously): Ummm….

Mayfair: Ummm….

Malfares (nervously): Ummm….

Mayfair: Oh no, no worries! I've got it! There once was a malfare on fire…

Malfares: Go on

Mayfair: Their need was so desperately dire

Malfares: Yes

Mayfair: But not to put out, the flames licking their spout, no twas a new drink they required

Malfares: That was an incendiary song, sing us another one, just like the other one, sing us another one do

[Mayfair casts the spell, everyone goes offstage]

Scene 2
[Other fares are all in the cage/rope freaking out, midfare 2 is in the cage sewing still]

Narrator:
Back in Mount Muswell, the other fares are still suffering.

All:
Ooooooooohh, ooooooooooohh

We're trapped, so trapped, trapped in a cage
Trapped, trapped, trapped, how we rage

Warfare:
Oh how can we go,
Go on at this stage

All:
Ohhh, We're trapped, trapped, trapped in a cage

Nofair (shouting):
It's not fair

All:

Ooooh, oh
Trapped in a cage
Ooooh, oh
Trapped in a cage
What can we do now
What can we do
What can we do now
Our chances are few

Midfare 2 (screeching):
I'm trapped

Midfare 1:
I'm not

All:
Our hopes are all shot

We're tra-a-apped, trapped in this cage
Having a bad time, in this damn cage

Spoken:
Warfare:
These luxuriously, soft beds are horrible. I keep on sleeping a full 8 hours!

Nofair:
The food is so healthy! Where's all the pasta and banana bread?

Trainfare:
And there's a terrible draught coming from this wide open door

Singing:
Oh, oh,
Trapped in this cage!
ooooooooh
Hooow we do rage!
Trappedy, trap, trapped
So fucking trapped
Cagedy, cage, caged
In this damn cage

O-o-oh, trapped
O-o-oh, caged

Welfare (walking on): Shut up, shut up, shut up! Hah, you fools thought you could defeat me! You're not even wearing shorts!

Nofair: This so isn't fair!

Warfare: Let me out so I can fight you, coward

Welfare: Hmmm let me think about that… No, no I won't

Fanfare: [plays kazoo in a way that conveys: 'What are you going to do with us?']

Welfare: Well Fanfare, I'm going to reeducate all of you into the Welfare mindset. No more staying up late partying, no more drinking till you can't stand, and no more wearing trousers. It's shorts from now on.

Warfare: That sounds pretty good to me

Welfare: Also swords are silly, we're only going to be fighting with spears at battle practice

Warfare: You monster!

Nofair: Oh it's no fair!

Trainfare: I feel my plot relevance was very fleeting

Welfare: Hey, whining about the script is not very Welfare, if you don't cut it out by the time I come back from making my tenth cup of tea of the day, I'll reeducate you first

[Welfare leaves, Midfare 1 enters]

Fanfare: [plays kazoo angrily]

Warfare: You!

Midfare 1: Look I know you're angry, but I did it in the name of balance

Nofair: You imprisoned your fellow midfare!

Midfare 1: Yes, one free, one not. Balance.

Trainfare: And your fellow Harry

Midfare 1: I have no idea what you mean, 4th wall breaking is not very midfare.

Midfare 2: Yeah it is. [looking straight at audience]

Warfare: When I get out of here, I'm gonna punch your head off

Midfare 1: Well, that makes this seem like a terrible decision

[Midfare 1 opens the cage]

Midfare 1: Welfare won one battle, with my help you should win the next. Balance.

Warfare: I hate you, but I love battles. I'm in.

Nofair: What's the point, we don't have the malfares now. We can't possibly win.

[Malfares appear]

Malfare 1: We're back

Fanfare: [plays kazoo happily]

Malfare 2: And you're… already free

Midfare 1: I freed them, for balance

Malfare 3: Umm… good?

Trainfare: Anyone feel we shouldn't be trusting the guy who keeps on backstabbing whoever he sides with…

Malfare 1: Ok there's no time to waste, we need to get Welfare now and banish him

Warfare: He went that way, towards the throne room

Malfare 2: Let's go!

[They all rush off to the throne room, except midfare 2, who's still sewing]

Scene 3

[Welfare is making a cup of tea and looking smug, the rebels rush in]

Malfare 3: We have you now!

Welfare: What! How are you here? How are they free? What is going on?

Malfare 1: What's going on is we're kicking your ass

Welfare [casting a spell]: You can try! I call upon the power of SLEEPING!

Malfare 3: [Spoken] We have something better than sleeping!

Welfare [casting a spell]: By the power of EATING!

Malfare 2: We have something better than eating!

Welfare [casting a spell]: By the power of DRINKING SENSIBLY!

Malfare 1: We have something better than drinking sensibly!

Welfare [casting a spell]: Oh really, what could possibly be better than all of those things?

Everyone but Welfare: The power of friendship

[Everyone group hug around Welfare, though maybe not actually touching him since Frederick]

Welfare:
[Spoken] I'm melting, I'm meeelting!!!

[Welfare sinks to the floor then leaves, Mayfair walks on stage]

Malfare 2: Mayfair! You're here

Fanfare: [plays kazoo in surprise]

Mayfair: My, the traces of my magic working through you must have swapped me and Welfare's places, meaning…

Malfare 3: You're free!

Malfare 2: Welfare's trapped!

Malfare 1: And we have victory

[everyone cheers, and goes off stage except midfare 1 and warfare]

Warfare: Hmph, that was anticlimactic. I didn't get to stab anybody

Midfare 1: Don't worry there'll be more battles yet. For balance.

[Massive banner (piece of paper) unveiled saying Malfare 2: The Welfare Strikes Back, coming out never]