

Gypsy Girl



Libretto by Ruth Hamilton
Music by Gary Daverne

Gypsy Girl is a musical story about Richi, a half-gypsy girl.

Richi's parents died when she was quite young so she lived with her old Aunt in a Gypsy wagon.

She was forced to go to school.

When her old Aunt dies, Richi is left destitute.

At school, the children dislike her, she is too different from them and she stinks.

Their dislike leads to hatred and violence.

They torment, tease, bully and finally mob Richi, thinking they have killed her.

Later, full of remorse, the children try to make amends and become friends, but find Richi too stubborn, too proud and perhaps too deeply hurt.

Gypsy girl can be presented entirely as a choral work, or alternatively may be staged as a musical with either large or small groups.

A suggestion is to divide the choir into two, half on each side in front of the stage, with the instrumentalists in between, leaving the stage for acting.

Diddikai is a Romany word meaning half-caste gypsy

Cast

Richi	(Gypsy Girl)
Narrator/Welfare Officer	(Man or Woman)
Widow	(Richi's new guardian)
Choir divided into two groups	Chorus A - Children/Non-Gypsies Chorus B - Gypsies

Dancers (ad lib)

This work can be performed with piano accompaniment only, or any combination of the following scored instruments.

2 pianos (one preferably electric)

2 flutes

Guitar

Bass

Drum kit

Percussion (2 – 4 players)

Musical Numbers

1. Gypsy Girl
2. Bully Rap No.1
3. You're Dirty
4. All Alone
5. The Funeral
6. Gypsy Dance
7. What to do?
8. Bully Rap No.2
9. Why can't you be Friends?
10. Come dance
11. Don't Believe Them
12. Gypsy Girl Finale

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SONG No. 1: GYPSY GIRL (*Narration is spoken over music*)

All Gypsy Girl, Gypsy Girl
At our School we have a Gypsy

Narrator We've got a gypsy at o school
Her name is Richenda

All Richi

Narrator We call her Richi

All Half-gypsy

Narrator Anyway, Richi's a half-gypsy, a Diddikai

All Diddikai

Narrator At birth gypsies are given three names. Richi has
only one

All Romany

Narrator That's because she's not a pure Romany
She's a half-breed

All Half-breed

Narrator A Diddikai

All Diddikai

Narrator **SHE STINKS!**

SONG No. 2: BULLY RAP No. 1
(Non Gypsies)

Look who's here, let's have some fun
Richi Richi. Stinky Richi.
Tinker, tailor, gypsy brat
Skinny little dirty rat
Can we make a gypsy cry?
We don't know but we will try

Richi. Richi. Richi, Richi
Stinky skinny little Richi

Gypsy Girl you spoil our fun
Richi Richi Richi Richi

Tinker tailor, gypsy brat
Skinny little dirty rat
You're too ragged, you're too thin
Gypsy tramp, you can't join in

Richi Richi Richi Richi
Gypsy tramp what you think about that

Rags to buy, rags to sell
Look she wears the rags as well
Don't want gypsies at our school
Don't want gypsies here at all

Richi, Richi go away
Gypsy Girl, we won't play
This is not where it's at
For a stinky gypsy brat

Richi Richi. Stinky Richi
Richi Richi. Stinky Richi

Richi I don't stink they/YOU do. They/YOU stink of soap, powder and perfume. I smell of horses and of wood smoke from the open fire. They think I'm dirty, but they wash their tea towels with their clothes.

SONG No. 3: YOU'RE DIRTY (Richi, Jane, Children, Gypsies)

- Gypsies** V.1.
You let dogs inside your houses
Let the cat sleep on the bed
You let dogs inside your houses
Let the cat sleep on the bed
You complain that we are dirty
You complain that we are dirty
You complain that we are dirty
You're the dirty ones instead
- Non Gypsies (Children)** V.2.
See your faded clothes are ragged
You all wear such strange attire
See your faded clothes are ragged
You all wear such strange attire
And your face and hands are grimy
And your face and hands are grimy
And your face and hands are grimy
With the wood smoke from the fire
- Gypsies** V.3.
You say gypsies do not smell good
You use soap and perfume too
You say gypsies do not smell good
You use soap and perfume too
Stopping all your natural odour
Stopping all your natural odour
Stopping all your natural odour
We don't want to smell like you
- Non Gypsies (Children)** V.4.
Gypsies don't use deodorant
And they don't use soap as well
Gypsies don't use deodorant
And they don't use soap as well
So they stink of horse and wood smoke
So they stink of horse and wood smoke
So they stink of horse and wood smoke
We can't stand the gypsy smell

Gypsies V.5.
You let dogs inside your houses
Let the cat sleep on the bed
You let dogs inside your houses
Let the cat sleep on the bed
You complain that we are dirty

Children ‘Cause your face and hands are grimy

Gypsies You stop all your natural odour

Children And you stink of horse and wood smoke

Gypsies But we’re gypsies, yes we’re gypsies

Children Yes, they’re gypsies

All And we don’t want to smell like you.

Narrator Richi is a little gypsy girl.
She lives alone with an old aunt in a field on the outskirts of town.
Her parents died when she was very young.
Now she is forced to go to school, forced to mix with other children.
She’s despised, she’s rejected, she’s different.
She’s a gypsy.
Richi is very lonely.

SONG No. 4: ALL ALONE (Richi - Non Gypsies - Gypsies)

All V.1.
The woodland around the sky up above
The white road ahead is a gypsy’s love
Here in the town away from her kind
Despised by the kids
Loneliness

Gypsies Loneliness, loneliness

Children Fills her mind, fills her mind

Gypsies Fills her mind, fills her mind

Richi Loneliness

Gypsies Richi, Richi Richi Richi.

Richi Fills my mind

Interlude:
Freedom to go, freedom to stay.
All The world is their road the gypsies' way
Nowhere to go don't want to play.
One in a crowd that is their way.
Richi.

Richi V.2.
The world is my home so don't make me stay
I just want to roam in the gypsy way
Please set me free. I won't live like you
You can't feel like me
Loneliness

Gypsies Loneliness, loneliness

Children Fills her mind

Gypsies Fills her mind, fills her mind

Children Loneliness

Richi Fills my mind

All *Interlude:*
Freedom to go, freedom to stay
The world is their road the gypsies' way
Nowhere to go don't want to play
One in a crowd that is their way
Richi

All V.3.
And now they have changed
They travel no more
So lost are their ways
Goodbye Gypsy Lore
Nowhere to go so where can she stay?
We don't want to know.
Loneliness

Children Loneliness, loneliness

Gypsies fills her mind.

Children Fills her mind, fills her mind

Richi Loneliness,

All Richi, Richi Richi Richi

Richi fills my mind.

Narrator Richi is alone. But she is more alone now. Her old Aunt has died.

SONG No. 5: THE FUNERAL (Richi, Narrator, Gypsies, Children)

Narrator *V.1.*

When she got home from school that day
To the wagon that was her home
She received no welcome
and knew she was alone
Richi where has your Aunt gone to?
Richi where can you find her?
Out in the field she's lying
Death has closed her eyes

V.2.

According to the gypsy lore
When a gypsy's going to die
She must quit the wagon
her home since her first cry
And lie down in the open
and die out in the open
Under the vault of heaven
under the lowering sky

V.3.

According to the gypsy lore
When a Romany has died
The gypsies burn the wagon
and smash what's left inside
Richi your home will be burned
Richi everything will be destroyed
Nothing will remain, nothing but a memory

SONG No. 6: GYPSY DANCE (Gypsies and Children)

- Gypsies** And us must smash the china, and us must smash the cups
And burn the clothes and photographs and all the ornaments
- Children** And they must smash the china, and they must smash the cups
And burn the clothes and photographs and all the ornaments
- Gypsies** And us must burn the wagon, that is the gypsy rule
- Children** And they must burn the wagon, that is the gypsy rule
- Gypsies** So dance you flames of scorching red. Till all her wealth is gone
And only memory lingers of a gypsy that is dead
- Children** And only memory lingers of a gypsy that is dead
- All** Burn, burn, burn, burn, burn, burn, burn.

DANCE (Gypsy dancers, dressed as flames/fire)

- Gypsies** And us must smash the china, and us must smash the cups
And burn the clothes and photographs and all the ornaments
- Children** And they must smash the china, and they must smash the cups
And burn the clothes and photographs and all the ornaments
- Gypsies** And us must burn the wagon, that is the gypsy rule
- Children** And they must burn the wagon, that is the gypsy rule
- Gypsies** So dance you flames of scorching red. Till all her wealth is gone
And only memory lingers of a gypsy that is dead
- Children** And only memory lingers of a gypsy that is dead
- All** Burn, burn, burn, burn, burn, burn, burn

Narrator Her old gypsy Aunt is dead. Somehow all her gypsy cousins don't want one extra little girl for themselves. She doesn't want to go with them anyway. If only they'd left the wagon. She would have a home. Wouldn't she?
The village children don't want her. She kicks, scratches and SMELLS. Nobody wants her.
What is to be done with poor Richi?

**SONG No. 7: WHAT TO DO? (Welfare Officer/ Widow/
Children/ Gypsies)**

Welfare Officer Today we are faced with a difficult case
One we don't usually find
Of a half gypsy girl who has nowhere to go
Rejected by all of her kind

Children Half gypsy girl with nowhere to go

Gypsies We don't want her don't try to make us

Children Half gypsy girl with no one to love

Gypsies We don't want her don't try to make us

Welfare Officer What can be done, where can she go
Poor little Gypsy Girl

Widow So what can be done for a child such as this, one who has
nowhere to go?
She's a dear little girl with no folk of her own,
Can't somebody give her a home?

Children Half gypsy girl with nowhere to go

Gypsies We don't want her don't try to make us

Children Half gypsy girl with no one to love

Gypsies We don't want her don't try to make us

Widow Find her a home make her your own

Poor little gypsy girl

Welfare Officer Now what can be done with this difficult child?
Nobody offers their care
There's a fine children's home not far from this town
Perhaps she'll find happiness there

Children Half gypsy girl with nowhere to go

Gypsies We don't want her don't try to make us

Children Half gypsy girl with no one to love

Gypsies We don't want her don't try to make us

Children Send her away don't let her stay
Un-wanted Gypsy Girl

Widow Please stop and reflect that a solitary child
needs someone to love of her own
So I'll take her myself, she'll be cherished by me
I'll offer my love and my home

Children Half gypsy girl with nowhere to go

Gypsies We don't want her don't try to make us

Children Half gypsy girl with no one to love

Gypsies We don't want her don't try to make us

W.Officer & Widow She'll have a home. She will have love
Dear little Gypsy Girl

Narrator And so Richi has a good home with the kind, understanding
widow. At last Richi has someone to love, and who, in return
loves her. She is happy living there.
Life should be great, but it isn't.

SONG No. 8: BULLY RAP No.2 (Children)

Here comes Richi, let's have some fun!
trip her up and down she'll go.
High and mighty Gypsy Girl.
Think you're smart, don't know why.
Don't sell clothes pegs nowadays.
Far too grand in all your ways.
Don't want Gypsies at our school.
Don't want Gypsies here at all.
This is not where it's at.
For a dirty gypsy brat.

Richi Let me go, let me be. Why you always pick on me.
Let me go, get off, let me go
(ad lib-She kicks, scratches and spits at children)

Solo Child Dirty little gypsy brat.
We must punish you for that.
Don't set her free or let her go.
First let's pull her to and fro.

**Children all
join in** Bump her, thump her pull her hair.
She's a gypsy don't play fair.
Bump her thump her pull her hair.
Bump her into that wall there.
Hit her bump her pull her hair. Run her into that wall there.
Hit her pinch her pull her hair. Crash her into that wall there!

The school bell rings. The Children drop Richi who collapses.

SILENCE

Widow Stop! What have you done?

Narrator The children think they have killed Richi.

SONG No. 7: WHY CAN'T YOU ALL BE FRIENDS?

Widow

V.1.

She has lost her Auntie, the only thing she had.
What gives you the right to make her life so sad?
You have homes and parents who love and comfort you.
Richi's home was ashes with on one to run to.

V.2.

From open air country now forced to go to school.
To try and live a strange new life and understand the rules.
When you could have helped her with all these hard new
things, all you did was pull her hair, tease her about her rings.

V.3.

She wanted so to learn things to try to do her best.
But all you did was bully her and nearly cause her death.
Don't you think it's time now to try and be her friends.
Show love and understanding to help to make amends.
Why can't you all be friends?

SONG No. 8: GYPSY GIRL 2

Children

Gypsy Girl, Gypsy Girl
At our school we have a gypsy

Narrator

Feeling so guilty about the way they have treated Richi

Children

Richi

Narrator

The children try to make up to her
They say they are sorry

Children

Half Gypsy

Narrator

They ask her to go with them to the school social

Children

Gypsy Girl

Narrator

There will be dancing and a barbecue

Children	Romany
Narrator	Go on Richi, you really want to go
Children	Richi
Narrator	Go with them. They are sorry
Children	Gypsy Girl

SONG No. 9: COME DANCE (Children)

Children	<p><i>V.1.</i> Come and dance with us little gypsy girl We're your friends, gypsy girl Come join hands with us little gypsy girl Now we'll laugh and sing and play</p> <p><i>V.2.</i> Will you sing to us little gypsy girl? We'll join in gypsy girl Come and sit with us little gypsy girl Friends at last and friends we'll stay</p> <p><i>Interlude</i> Please forgive, please forget All the things that we did are past Don't be shy We will try To be kind and loving at last</p> <p><i>V.3.</i> Say you'll dance tonight little gypsy girl Say you will, gypsy girls Be a friend of mine little gypsy girl Now we'll laugh and sing and play Say you'll sing tonight little gypsy girl Please join in, gypsy girl Come and sit with me little gypsy girl Friends at last and friends we'll stay</p>
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Interlude

Please forgive, please forget
All the things that we did are past
Don't be shy
We will try
To be kind and loving at last

V.5.

La la la la.....
Will you sing to us little gypsy girl?
We'll join in gypsy girl
Come and sit with me little gypsy girl
Friends at last and friends we'll stay

Richi I won't go. I don't want to.

SONG No. 10: DON'T YOU BELIEVE

Gypsies

V.1.

Don't you believe what the children are saying
Richi, it's really not so
Don't you believe what these people are saying
Richi, please say you won't go
Richi they're lying, you know that they hate you
You are so different form them
Don't let them fool you, stay home tonight
You know what they say is a sham

Children

V.2.

Can't you believe us when we say we're sorry?
Richi, what more can we do?
We have gone out of our way to include you
Richi the rest's up to you
Richi the gypsies all want to make trouble
They won't let you be our friend
Don't let them stop you form coming tonight
And don't let our new friendship end

Gypsies

V.3.

Don't you believe what the children are saying
Richi, it's really not so
Don't you believe what these people are saying
Richi, please say you won't go
Richi they're lying
You know that they hate you
You are so different form them

Don't let them fool you, stay home tonight
You know what they say is a sham

Children

V.4.
Can't you believe us when we say we're sorry?
Richi, what more can we do?
We have gone out of our way to include you
Richi the rest's up to you
Richi the gypsies all want to make trouble
They won't let you be our friend
Don't let them stop you from coming tonight
and don't let our new friendship end

Gypsies

Listen to us gypsies we are you only friends
We must stick together your new friendship must end

Children

Don't you listen to them
They let you down before
Listen to your new friends
Our help is worth much more

ALL

Come on Richi, come on Richi
We'll have fun tonight
Come on Richi, come on Richi
Don't act so up tight
Come on Richi, come on Richi
Come with us to night
Come on Richi, come on Richi
Come on Richi, come on Richi

Richi

No I won't! I won't go! I hate you! I hate you all!

Richi runs straight out. Terrible scream and crash to suggest Richi has been hit by a car.

SILENCE.

**Narrator
(slowly)**

Widow there's been an accident.
It's Richi

All (singing)

Gypsy Girl, Gypsy Girl. At our school we should make friends.

THE END