

# ***BEAUTY*** ***and the*** ***BEAST***

*Adapted by*  
**CHARLES DE WALD**

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## **STORY OF THE PLAY**

The touching story of Beauty and the Beast is recreated here as a delightful show for young audiences.

A festival celebrating all the good works the rich Baron von Holwitz has done for the village is interrupted when messengers declare the Baron's ships have sunk at sea. The disaster turns the merchant into an instant pauper and the townspeople, angry and upset, reject him.

Devastated, the Baron runs into the woods where an ugly Beast confronts him. The merchant's life will be spared only if he asks one of his five daughters to return in his place.

The Baron cannot believe what he must ask of his family, nevertheless he must. Naturally daughters Freda, Genevieve, Helga, and Wilamena refuse. Only Beauty, the daughter who is as beautiful on the inside as the outside, gladly offers to save her father's life.

She ventures to the Beast's castle deep in the woods. There she meets a creature who is ugly to look at yet is intelligent, gentle, and kind. As she gets to know him she realizes he is terribly lonely. She convinces the Beast to go back to her town to live with humans, but when the townspeople spy him, they are frightened by his appearance and try to capture and kill him.

Beauty's kiss saves the Beast and transforms him into a handsome young man. The townspeople realize you cannot judge by looks alone or by wealth, nor should you underestimate how love can change someone.

Actors can hone their skills in this classic fairy tale adaptation as they perform both as characters and narrators. Super simple costuming and staging make it a breeze to tour.

## **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(Ensemble cast of 20 or more)*

**NARRATORS:** Tell the story, any number.  
**BARON VON HOLWITZ:** Destitute merchant.  
**BARON'S WIFE:** Beloved wife.  
**BEAUTY:** Their daughter, beautiful, inside and out.  
**FREDA:** Another daughter.  
**GENEVIEVE:** Another.  
**HELGA:** Another.  
**WILAMENA:** Another.  
**4 SUITORS:** Love the above 4 daughters.  
**MAYOR:** Heads town and festival.  
**CONSTABLE:** Presents scroll to Baron.  
**BANKER:** Gives handshake to Baron.  
**MINISTER:** Blesses Baron.  
**MINISTER'S WIFE:** Not as forgiving as husband.  
**TOWNSPEOPLE:** Any number.  
**2 MESSENGERS:** Bring bad news.  
**BEAST:** A lonely man/beast.  
**BEAST'S ASSISTANT:** Loyal and devoted aide.  
**DREAMMAKERS:** Live with Beast in castle.

## **SYNOPSIS**

**Scene 1:** The town festival, long, long ago.  
**Scene 2:** The forest, several days later.  
**Scene 3:** The Merchant's house, a short time later.  
**Scene 4:** The Beast's castle, the next day.  
**Scene 5:** The Beast's castle, several weeks later.  
**Scene 6:** The town, the next day.

## **COSTUMES**

All of the TOWNSPEOPLE wear clothes reflective of an old European village. The costumes can be fancy from three-piece suits and formal dresses to simple shorts, shirts and ties, or peasant blouses and colorful skirts. The BEAST is covered with animal fur and wears the mask of a wild animal. BEAUTY should wear a leotard under her skirt and blouse for ease of costume change when the Dreammakers give her a gown. Gown can simply be a sheer, long flowing skirt if desired. DREAMMAKERS should look the same, whatever pixie style costume is chosen.

## **PROPS**

Scroll - CONSTABLE  
Flower - SUITOR #2  
Bouquet of flowers - MAYOR  
Plates of food, gown, comb - DREAMMAKERS  
Net - CONSTABLE

## **SCENERY**

Flowers and streamers for town  
Bench, window and door frames for Baron's house  
Large tree for forest  
Curving steps for Beast's castle

**PLAYING TIME:** About 35 minutes.

**Scene 1: Our Town**

*(LIGHTS down. NARRATORS are at various positions on stage.)*

NARRATOR #1: Now you must know there was a town.

NARRATOR #2: Where it was exactly -

NARRATOR #3: And what time that it existed -

NARRATOR #4: Is not of any great importance.

NARRATOR #5: Let us say that it was in central Europe.

NARRATOR #6: Maybe a hundred years ago.

NARRATOR #7: Or maybe only twenty years ago.

NARRATOR #8: It really isn't important.

NARRATOR #9: What is important is that you believe that it existed.

NARRATOR #10: We don't think that is too much to ask.

NARRATOR #1: In this town, the people enjoyed a rich and wonderful life.

NARRATOR #2: Along with his family -

NARRATOR #3: A rich merchant lived here.

NARRATOR #4: He gave much of his earned wealth to the town.

NARRATOR #5: Everyone was happy.

NARRATOR #6: The mayor -

NARRATOR #7: The constable -

NARRATOR #8: Especially the town banker -

NARRATOR #9: The minister and his wife -

NARRATOR #10: And of course, the merchant's family.

NARRATOR #1: The merchant's daughters were chased by the suitors.

NARRATOR #2: The other townspeople danced and sang.

NARRATOR #3: In fact, -

NARRATOR #4: We are going to join in.

NARRATOR #5: You see, we're having a festival right now.

NARRATOR #6: You can join us if you like.

NARRATOR #7: It's a special festival -

NARRATOR #8: Honoring none other than the rich merchant, -

NARRATOR #9: The Baron himself.

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NARRATOR #10: Feel free to join in if you like.

*(LIGHTS change to full stage. Flowers and streamers show the town is having a festival. NARRATORS exit or move UPS as TOWNSPEOPLE enter talking, laughing, celebrating. MAYOR, BANKER, CONSTABLE, MINISTER, and his FAMILY are DSR, the BARON standing in front. After a few moments the Mayor steps DSL with the Minister to address the crowd.)*

MAYOR: Welcome everyone to our town festival! *(TOWNSPEOPLE cheer.)* To open our festival our town minister will now give his blessing.

MINISTER: *(Stepping CS.)* Ahem! Ahem! Please bless this town and its festival. May our town picnic nourish us and provide us with our daily needs. Amen. *(Moves back SL.)*

TOWNSPEOPLE: Amen.

MAYOR: *(Moving CS.)* As the town mayor, you all realize this festive occasion has been brought about in honor of our town's greatest citizens. He has proven an inspiration and an asset to our community, not only as a civic leader, but also as a loving family man. His dedication to our town's development and growth, contributions to the general welfare, and his overwhelming support for any cause that affected our small township, make him one of our most honored citizens. Would you please step forward, Baron von Holwitz?

*(CROWD applauds as the BANKER shakes the BARON'S hand. Banker goes back SL. The MINISTER approaches the Baron and stands next to him.)*

MINISTER: Thank you also, Baron, for your giving to the church. You have blessed this town and should receive innumerable blessings in return.

TOWNSPEOPLE: Speech! Speech! Speech!

## **End of Freeview**

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