

# Fallen Goldfish

*By Dean Phillips II*

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*This play is dedicated to the memory of John Traxler.*

**STORY OF THE PLAY**

When Thomas hurriedly flushes the deceased family goldfish down the toilet to replace it with a new one while his young son, Lewis, is at school, he receives a knock on his front door. Greeting him is a golden-cladded warrior claiming that he and his Viking-like associates knew and fought alongside the deceased Stanley (the goldfish). With his living room now invaded by these unusual warriors demanding to have the funeral in his house, Thomas must make them leave before Lewis and his mother come home. All just because of a dead goldfish. About 35-minute runtime.

**ORIGINAL PRODUCTION**

“Fallen Goldfish” was first presented to an audience as part of the Texas Wesleyan Theatre Playmarket contest in 2017. May 7, 2017 at Texas Wesleyan University and May 16, 2017 at Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre in New York City. The show featured the following cast and crew:

THOMAS: John Traxler	ERMEN: Kevin Dawson
JANE: Holli Price	WARRIOR 1: Michelle Phillips
LEWIS: Gabe Crowley	WARRIOR 2: Bria Huckaby
JAZAR: Trey Cardona	WARRIOR 3: Tristen Brown
TIESIC: Amanda Fitzgerald	WARRIOR: Alexi Sinclair
DAUFSON: Alfredo Tamayo	WARRIOR: Ray Newton
ORN: Kate McGehee	STORYTELLER/Stage Directions:
HURNG: TJ Curry	Jacob Rivera-Sanchez

Director: Connie Whitt-Lambert  
Assistant Director: Kim Owen  
Production Manager: Tyler Guse  
Stage Management: Jasmine Mesre, Malik Offor  
Tech: Jorge Flores, Christina Carter-Mallory  
Costume Coordinator: Crystal Salazar-Byerly  
Asst. Costume: Brianna Hunter  
FOH: Akira Owens, Rayven Harris, Jackie Puga

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**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(1 m, 1 w, 1 child, 6 - 16 flexible roles)*

**FAMILY**

**THOMAS:** Father of Lewis and husband of Jane. Is one to try to streamline or hasten things, as if to keep things rational. When drained or overly perplexed can become very eccentric and anxious.

**JANE:** Mother of Lewis and wife of Thomas. Jane is a fixer. She sees a present problem, or an imminent problem coming, and wants to help fix it.

**LEWIS:** Son of Thomas and Jane, age range of 7 and 8. Soft-spoken but definitely takes in all around him and can think on them carefully.

**THE OPPOSING REBELLION**

*\*Warriors can be played by either male or female.*

**JAZAR:** (Jay-zar) The very wise General of the Opposing Rebellion. He has a voice that encapsulates strength even though it's always speaking a soft and kind word.

**TIESIC:** (Tie-sick) One of three scholars of the group.

**DAUFSON:** (Do-f-son) Scholar.

**ORN:** Scholar.

**HURNG:** (Her-ung) Warrior.

**ERMEN:** Warrior.

**WARRIORS:** Ideally it would be a group no smaller than 10. Feel free to assign the lines among the available warriors regardless of the number listed in the script.

**COSTUMES**

The family dresses in current day clothing.

The warriors dress in gold-clad armor. Some have small instruments and a Canadian flag.

**PROPS**

Goldfish in a bag	Fishbowl and net
Vase	Breath mints
Golden-clad instruments	Crested flag

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**Fallen Goldfish**

*(LIGHTS up on a living room as THOMAS barges through the front door holding a plastic bag with a goldfish inside it. Thomas goes to a glass bowl on a table CR and replaces a dead goldfish with the new specimen. He takes the former out and then offstage. SFX: a toilet flush. Thomas returns, relieved, and then makes a call.)*

**THOMAS:** *(On phone.)* Jane... Yeah, I got it done, looks just like Stanley ... I'm sorry Jane, but we talked about this ... He'll be fine and when he's good and ready we'll have that talk with him... That joke was funnier the first time. *(SFX: a knock at the door.)* Honey, there's someone at the door. I'll have to go. You haven't ordered anything lately, have you? ... Oh ... OK ... I'll see you two then... Bye.

*(THOMAS heads to and answers the door to see the warrior JAZAR in golden armor.)*

**THOMAS:** *(Cont'd. A little confused.)* May I help you, sir?

**JAZAR:** Is this the residence of Stanley the goldfish?

**THOMAS:** ...I'm sorry, what?

**JAZAR:** Is this the residence of Stanley the honorable, dedicated goldfish?

**THOMAS:** Are you trying to sell me something?

**JAZAR:** No, my dear sir. All shall be explained, once I know about Stanley, that is.

**THOMAS:** Well, this is...was the residence of Stanley.

**JAZAR:** So it is true. *(Sighs.)* Thank you, sir.

**THOMAS:** You're welcome.

*(THOMAS begins to close the door but JAZAR stays where he is and turns slightly to outside the door.)*

**JAZAR:** This is the place, warriors!

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*(A large clan of WARRIORS wearing similar armor as Jazar enter all at once, some chattering, some chanting, few silent.)*

**WARRIOR #1:** *(To another WARRIOR.)* Just like you said, Stanley had a great sense of humor. I say we continue that notion.

**WARRIOR #2:** *(Chanting to himself separate from the two before them.)* We dance, we sing, to celebrate an honored thing.

**WARRIOR #3:** *(To themselves and others around them.)* Peace, peace to those who mourn.

**THOMAS:** *(Utterly surprised.)* What the? Who are?

*(3 WARRIORS approach THOMAS, all from different sides, asking him questions.)*

**WARRIOR #1:** Tell me, did he go peacefully?

**THOMAS:** What? Yes? I...

**WARRIOR #2:** Will you be reading his will, or will that be at another date?

**THOMAS:** Will?

**WARRIOR #3:** *(Looking around curiously.)* Where did you get the carpet?

**JAZAR:** My friends, I must speak with our dear host before the proceedings begin. *(The THREE back off as JAZAR advances to THOMAS.)* I am sorry about that, friend. These soldiers are so caring that they can forget how brash they can be sometimes. *(THOMAS is silent in bafflement.)* Oh, my apologies. I am Jazar, *(Shakes THOMAS' hand by the wrist.)* General of this great army. You must be Thomas.

**THOMAS:** *(Surprised.)* Yes...how did you...?

**JAZAR:** Stanley told me all about you, Lewis, and Jane in his letters.

**THOMAS:** Letters?

**JAZAR:** You are good people to care for him.

*(A WARRIOR nearby chimes in.)*

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**WARRIOR:** Who couldn't care for Stanley when he cared for so many?

*(ALL WARRIORS exclaim in agreement.)*

**JAZAR:** Valid point, mate, but still noble, nonetheless.

**WARRIOR:** Yes, indeed.

*(ALL WARRIORS, again, exclaim in agreement.)*

**JAZAR:** Now then friends, shall we...

**THOMAS:** Explain!

**JAZAR:** Explain?

**THOMAS:** *(Exacerbated.)* Yes! Explain! I require information! Understand?

**JAZAR:** Oh, of course! Great scholars, to this presence, posthaste! *(Three warriors, TIESIC, DAUFSON, and ORN, come closer to JAZAR and THOMAS.)* Begin.

*(The THREE simultaneously begin ranting on great inquiries, life, morals, etc.)*

**TIESIC:** What we perceive and believe to be reality is primarily based on the scientific approaches of said perception. One of the most basic explanations of reality is Newton's three laws of motion. The first being...

**DAUFSON:** The human personality, as theorized by Freud, is separated into the ego, the superego, and the id. The id refers to the unconscious and impulsive part of the being that reacts directly to what it is exposed to. The ego...

**ORN:** How do we know that we exist? How do we grasp the knowledge that all of this is really here? René Descartes brought forth the idea of cogito, ergo sum, which translates from Latin to I think, therefore I am. This gave...

**THOMAS:** *(While the three are still speaking.)* Wait, wait, wait!

**JAZAR:** Halt!

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