The Grand Adventures of Pip and Mimsy!

By Jack Sale

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DEDICATION

This play is dedicated to Nancy, David, and Betsy who nurtured my imagination. And to Mandy and Haley who showed me what everlasting friendship is.

I would also like to thank all those who inspired the characters in this play, particularly the original Pip and Mimsy characters created by Melynda Kiring and Charlie Levy, and the Begeloits doll who still lurks in the shadows of some theatrical properties shop.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Follow the adventures of two Victorian street urchins—annoyingly enthusiastic and melodramatic—who still await with joy the return of their missing father after many years. As they gratefully and cheerfully accept their circumstances of foraging and freezing, Pip and Mimsy, accompanied by friend Fimm Bimbles, have a chance encounter with an evil and hypnotic puppet named Begeloits, who draws the unwitting children into his nefarious plan to kill the Queen. Coincidence and fate lead Pip and Mimsy to Court where they are reunited with their miserly Uncle Scrooge and where, somehow, Pip, Mimsy, and Fimm foil the Royal Nephew's assassination attempt on the Queen. The dark, melodramatic humor is off-putting, provocative, and yet at the same time, "ever so" appealing. You'll be strangely drawn to this play!

PREMIER PERFORMANCE

The Grand Adventures of Pip and Mimsy! premiered at the University of California, Santa Cruz, in the spring of 2008. It was directed by Roberto Preciado and stage managed by Lilia Sandoval. The cast was as follows:

Pip: Lily Burnett; Mimsy: Emily Krakowsky; Fimm Bimbles: Aaron Farkas; Begeloits: Edgar M. Gonzalez; Gabriel: Dale P. Thompson; King: Aaron Doran; Queen: Pami Malinova; Scrooge: Sarah Swilley; Mrs. Gizzles: Ivy A. Henry; Beth Loveless: Clare Loughran; Elizabeth: Mara Sherman; Jacob Marley: Ben Samuel; The Guard: Brandon Yu.

CHARACTER PERSONAE

(5 m, 4 w, 1 flexible)

PIP: Enthusiastic British boy! Annoying and melodramatic.

MIMSY: Enthusiastic British girl! Annoying and melodramatic.

FIMM BIMBLES: Their best friend.

QUEEN: Victoria. Depressed, yet charismatic.

KING: Albert. Very old and senile.

GABRIEL: The Queen's nephew. A villain.

MR. / MRS. GIZZLES: An old shopkeeper. (flexible role)

BETH LOVELESS: A lonely mother.

ELIZABETH LOVELESS: Her lonely daughter.

SCROOGE: A covetous old sinner.

BEGELOITS: (Bee-gell-o-wits. Voice only.) A clown's doll head on a stick.

JACOB MARLEY: (Voice only.) A ghost.

THE GUARD: Stern, patriotic. (Role can be doubled with that of Gizzles.)

Performance time: About an hour.

PLAYWRIGHT'S ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to acknowledge James Bierman and the advanced playwrights at the University of California, Santa Cruz – winter, 2008, for their invaluable contributions.

I would also like to thank all those who inspired the characters in this play, particularly the Begeloits doll who still lurks in the shadows of some theatrical properties shop.

SETTING

London, England. December 24, 1843.

Victorian-style costumes will set the time period while stationary platforms can suggest locations:

- A freezing street near the river
- Outside a toy shop window
- A throne room
- Scrooge's sitting room

Simple stage props which are needed:

- Trashcan for Pip and Mimsy's fire
- Trashcan for Fimm's home
- Two thrones
- 2 or 3 pieces of furniture covered with sheets
- Clown head on a stick. Ideally eyes should flash red.
- (You will also need an offstage microphone for the evil voice of Begeloits.)

Simple hand props (some of which could be mimed):

- Cups of tea and crumpets
- Embroidery for Queen
- Pitch pipe for Pip
- Proclamation and quill for Gabriel
- Small candle
- Parasol for Elizabeth
- Santa hat and/or suit for Scrooge
- Letter for Loveless'
- Prop gun for Gabriel
- Crown for a king

Scene 1 - A Dirty Lane

(AT RISE: In a very dirty lane. PIP and MIMSY warm their hands over a makeshift trashcan-barrel fire.)

PIP: Oh Mimsy …
MIMSY: Yes, Pip?
PIP: I do hope Father returns soon. My fingers are frozen into oh-so-very-perfect icicles …
MIMSY: Oh Pip, do keep heart. I am sure Father will return any minute and he shall whisk us away into the world of fairies and dew drops! Oh Pip ... the world we have always dreamed of!
PIP: Of course, Mimsy! Oh, I am oh-so-very *excited*!
MIMSY: Oh! I, too, am oh-so-very *excited*! *(Beat.)* What are we excited about again, Pip? My stomach is eating itself again …
PIP: Oh, Mimsy, It is such an oh-so-wonderful of Christmas Eves. Let us … let us warm our hands by the *hearth*. And. And. Let us be *thankful*. Let us be oh-so-very thankful for this oh-so-wonderful of winter nights. *All* the wonderful things with which we have been bestowed.
MIMSY: *(Excited.)* Oh yes! Oh such wonderful gifts we have been bestowed! Like the … umm umm … What have we been bestowed, my dearest brother?
PIP: Well … we have this lovely night and …
MIMSY: This lovely fire of burning filth!
PIP: Yes! Yes! *And* the lovely dead cat that keeps us company while we sleep. The freezing white snow! It makes my hands numb with delight! Oh! And the rotting fish carcass we ate just this very morning! It was quite a tasty morsel, if I do say so myself.
MIMSY: *(Dramatic – sudden pan out to audience.)* Oh Pip … that was *four years* ago … I am oh-so-very-hungry. I have not eaten in … three days …
PIP: Nor have I … *(Pause.)*
MIMSY: I am oh-so-very excited! Father shall return at any moment.
MIMSY: *(Cont'd.)* He shall stride around the corner any second now with his gloriously warm arms stretched out wide to take us home to the land of milk and honey! He shall have sugar plums, and spiced wine, and a great big chicken! CHICKEN!
PIP: *(Dramatic.)* But Mimsy … Father has been gone for sixteen years …

(Beat.)

MIMSY: And sugar plums!
PIP: Yes! Sugar plums!
MIMSY: *(Screams.)* SUGAR PLUMS!!!

(Enter FIMM BIMBLES from a nearby trashcan.)

MIMSY: Oh Fimm!
PIP: Fimm Bimbles!
MIMSY: How are you this oh-so-wonderful of Christmas Eves?
FIMM: Only freezing to death ... Just a little.
PIP: Why were you sleeping in that trashcan, Fimm?

End of Freeview

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