

Havoc

A One-Act Fantasy
by Chase Owen

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STORY OF THE PLAY

While on a school trip to the local museum three high school friends find themselves in a restricted area. In this room the students discover a statue of Pandora and her famous box. The box is opened and three creatures - Famine, War, and Disease - are released into the world. With the help of a mysterious guide the three friends must fulfill the wish of the creatures to return everything back to normal.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

The show was produced by Caldwell Junior High School on May 21st, 2024, in the Lou-Ida Marsh auditorium, Caldwell Texas. It was directed by Geraldine Rasmussen, and it featured the following cast and crew:

Greek Chorus/Student 1: Erica Buckholt
Greek Chorus/Student 2: JonPaul Hill
Greek Chorus/Student 3: Jenna Dodson
River: Nathaniel Murray
Tempest: Olivia Etheredge
Niko: Millison Dowell
Ms. Ari: Alina Dimas
Pandora: Madelynn Matthews
Hope/Tour Guide: Raegan Lee
Famine: Hailey Rountree
War: Marvin Nelson
Disease: Ajryan Sims
Crew: Vera Baker, Jack Gardner, Analia Navarro,
Zamarea Young-Johnson, Krya Ellis, Garrett Dyll

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(Flexible cast of 12 or more actors.)

GREEK CHORUS: Any number.

RIVER: Reckless, hasty.

TEMPEST: Sharp, responsible.

NIKO: Loyal, not very bright.

PANDORA: Mystical statute, frightening.

HOPE: Wise, kind, commanding. Must also double as tour guide in the end.

WAR: Mysterious creature.

DISEASE: Mysterious creature.

FAMINE: Mysterious creature.

MR/MRS. ARI: Teacher.

TOUR GUIDE

ENSEMBLE: Students, additional tour guides, teachers.

The roles of Pandora / other creatures can be played anyway the director chooses. You can use humans, puppets, props, projections, or shadows.

Gender is not important. If you need to change the pronouns of the character, feel free to do so.

Diversity is extremely encouraged. This story is intended to be universal. Please use all voices to tell the story.

PRODUCTION NOTES

The lines delivered by War, Famine, and Disease are listed in the text as TRIO. You may deliver these lines in any fashion. Either individually, together, or a combination of the two. Have fun with the trio and their dialogue. The same can be done for the Greek Chorus.

The use of “/” is to indicate that that section of lines are to be said simultaneously.

Scenes are listed for ease of rehearsal. The show should move quickly and seamlessly.

This play is set in a museum. I would encourage you to collaborate with your art department and showcase their work as scenery in this production.

The Greek Chorus can wear masks, and their clothes bear resemblance to ancient Greek chorus costumes. There are no stage directions in the script for them. You may have them stay in place or move with the museum as part of the set.

There are many effects listed in the script. You may be as elaborate or as simple as your stage allows.

SETTING

Time: Now.

Place: Greek Mythology exhibition of a museum.

Prologue

(AT RISE: In the dark we hear MUSIC gradually fill the space. LIGHTS rise on a GREEK CHORUS.)

CHORUS: Rain.
Thunder.
The clouds fill the sky.
A bus approaches the museum.
The museum is filled with art.
Thrilled to be on a field trip, students prepare for fun.
There is a secret locked away.
A tale to be unraveled.

Scene 1: The Never-Ending Speech

(LIGHTS shift and we see an astounding museum full of art and statues. The GREEK CHORUS becomes part of the art in the museum. An ENSEMBLE of students and teachers enter the museum. MR/MRS. ARI, leading the tour, gathers all of the STUDENTS together for a picture, and then begins the pre-tour talk. The students are not listening.)

ARI: Get in a group for our photo please! Clap once if you can hear me! *(One STUDENT and ARI clap. Awkward silence.)*
Let's try this again! Clap once if you can hear me! *(More STUDENTS clap this time, but it's not very enthusiastic.)*
Okay kiddos, Smile for the camera! 1...2...3!

(The STUDENTS participate, barely. FX: Camera flashes. ALL freeze.)

CHORUS: River. *(LIGHT or focus on RIVER.)*
Niko. *(LIGHT or focus on NIKO.)*
Tempest. *(LIGHT or focus on TEMPEST.)*

(FX: Camera flash. ALL unfreeze.)

ARI: YAY! Thank you, ladies and gentlemen! Welcome to the Greek Mythology exhibition, hosted by our own local museum! Before we get our tour started, I need to go over a few ground rules. You are all high schoolers now, so I expect you to be on your best behavior! Number 1: Do not touch the art! It is very expensive and....

(As ARI continues to explain the rules, we see a small side conversation between RIVER, TEMPEST, and NIKO. Optional: Ari's speech can continue at a low volume and be improvised by the performer. It should not steal focus from following dialogue.)

RIVER: And the award for longest and most boring speech goes too...

TEMPEST: *(Elbowing RIVER in the side.)* River, cut it out. You're going to get us in trouble.

RIVER: Tempest. You know it's true. Ari totally wins.

NIKO: *(Trying to hold in a laugh. Begins to quietly chant.)*
Encore. Encore. Enc—

TEMPEST: Niko! *(TEMPEST elbows NIKO in the stomach.)*

ARI: Excuse me! You three, please stop the side conversation and listen.

TEMPEST: Yes, ma'am!

ARI: Finally, rule number 5. We are doing this tour as a group. Please stick together. We do not go off on our own. Let's show these nice museum people how awesome our school is! GO OWLS! *(Silence as ARI does the school spirit pose/gesture.)* Are we ready?

STUDENTS: Yes, ma'am! *(Two or three STUDENTS clap.)*

ARI: Let's get this tour started!

STUDENTS: Woo / Sigh / Alright / I guess ...

ARI: You three. Come see me first. *(RIVER, TEMPEST, and NIKO slowly approach.)* I don't want any trouble today, River. You know I have your mother on speed dial. Niko, it would be wise to follow my rules. You are already on my list today. Tempest. You know what I am going to say. You know better. I don't see how you always get wrapped up in their shenanigans.

RIVER: Sounds fair /

NIKO: I promise I won't be trouble /

TEMPEST: Yes, ma'am! We will do our best.

ARI: Good. We're on the same page then. Come along, my little monsters. We have to meet the tour guide in 5 minutes, or we will miss the tour!

(MUSIC begins to fill the space as the STUDENTS start following ARI. Ari is giving more directions and pointing out some art pieces. As the group slowly exits, RIVER, TEMPEST, and NIKO begin to fall behind until they are the only students on stage.)

CHORUS: Children should always follow the rules.

The teacher always knows best.

Niko.

Tempest.

River.

Follow. The. Rules.

Scene 2: Falling Behind

NIKO: I think this piece looks like me! What do you think?

RIVER: Yeah, if you were really, really pretty and bright! But you aren't, so no!

TEMPEST: *(Laughs.)* River is wrong. I think that painting looks nothing like you... THIS painting looks like you though! *(The painting is very abstract, and NIKO does not understand.)*

RIVER: Nice try, Temp.

NIKO: Guys, look at this one!

RIVER: What about it?

NIKO: I like it! It reminds me of us.

TEMPEST: Oh! I totally see it now!

RIVER: Yeah! They look like they could be three friends connected by string. *(Reading the plaque on the painting.)* "The Fates." So cool. We're takin' a selfie with this one. *(Pulls out phone.)*

NIKO: Wait a minute, guys, where is the rest of our class?

TEMPEST: They probably moved on while we were goofing off. We have to catch up! If we don't hurry, Mrs. Ari is totally going to give us detention for falling behind! I can't believe you two!

(The museum is quiet, and the STUDENT group is nowhere to be seen.)

RIVER: Don't see 'em. Maybe they went this way?

(RIVER, TEMPEST, and NIKO walk through the museum slowly. They cannot find the group.)

NIKO: I don't think this is the right way, River.

RIVER: Wait, wait, wait. Check this out. *(Stops the group at a door. This door looks out of place.)*

NIKO: Maybe our group went in there?

RIVER: I don't think so. But who cares. Let's go in and see what's in there.

TEMPEST: We are not looking in there. We're looking for the group. Come on.

CHORUS: Stop.
Listen to Tempest.
Follow the rules.

(TEMPEST goes to leave, but NIKO and RIVER are looking at the door and the sign beside it. They do not follow Tempest.)

NIKO: Look at this. It says, "AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY ALLOWED PAST THIS POINT."

RIVER: *(To NIKO. Shaking hands.)* Hello, Authorized! I'm Personnel, nice to meet you!

NIKO: Nice to meet you Personnel! You have been authorized!

TEMPEST: Guys! Stop! We aren't going in there. Ari probably knows we are lost and is writing us a detention as we speak. I am not letting you two get me in trouble again.

(RIVER and NIKO slowly approach the door.)

NIKO: Come on, Temp! You know you want to. Just a quick peek.

CHORUS: AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY.

TEMPEST: UGH. *(SHE caves.)* Fine. But aren't you guys a little worried we will get in trouble?

RIVER: Temp. We won't let you get in trouble again.

NIKO: Totally.

(RIVER and NIKO put their hands in for a secret handshake or something they made to signify a promise.)

TEMPEST: Thanks, guys. Let's do this.

NIKO: *(Trying to push the door open. Struggling and straining to get it open.)* It's not opening. It must be locked.

RIVER: Here let me try. *(Same thing. Not budging.)* Whoa! That is definitely not budging.

TEMPEST: I bet it's locked with magic. *(NIKO and RIVER gasp.)* Probably need to cast a spell on it for it to open.

NIKO: WHOA /

RIVER: I DIDN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT THAT /

TEMPEST: Here. I will cast a spell on it. Abracadabra... Alakazam... Open this door with my command!

(SHE pulls the door open. RIVER and NIKO are shocked!)

NIKO: Tempest! You're a wizard? How did you learn to do that?!

TEMPEST: By reading this magical sign.

(TEMPEST points at the obvious sign that says, "Pull door to open." She laughs and goes in. RIVER and NIKO follow her, embarrassed and disappointed.)

CHORUS: Rules are not meant to be broken.
The door should remain closed.
Three children break the rules.
A promise is made.

CHORUS: *(Cont'd.)* Mrs. Ari, where are you?
Your students need you now more than ever.
They enter the room.
Mystery fills the air.

Scene 3: Unauthorized Personnel

(LIGHTS shift. The room is more dimly lit. There is a large object covered completely with a sheet.)

TEMPEST: Okay, our group is not here. Let's get out of here.
RIVER: Tempest, please lighten up. Everything is going to be fine.
TEMPEST: Sorry.

(RIVER and NIKO are totally mystified by the room. The room feels different from the rest of the museum. It is eerie and makes the kids feel uneasy.)

NIKO: What do you think this is? *(Referring to the giant sheet covered object.)*
TEMPEST: I don't know, and I don't plan on finding out.
NIKO: You're being so lame right now. Look at this thing!
RIVER: Go back and be a teacher's pet if you want to. I have to know what this is.... *(Slowly reaches for the sheet.)*
TEMPEST: River! Stop!
CHORUS: STOP!

(RIVER pulls the sheet down. A giant statue of PANDORA is revealed. She is holding an ancient mystical box. It appears to be glowing through the cracks. All three STUDENTS are in shock and awe.)

RIVER / NIKO: Whoaaaaa....
TEMPEST: I never thought I would see it in person...but this is the statue of Pandora. Mrs. Ari talked about this in class! It's... amazing.

End of Freeview

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