

The Women of Blood Wedding

Las Mujeres De Bodas De Sangre

Based on the work of Federico Garcia Lorca

By
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SYNOPSIS

This play follows the surviving women from the original play by Federico Garcia Lorca. We find that the Mother, the Bride, and Leonardo's wife are caught in the same circle of bitterness, unable to forget and move on.

Set on a rural mountainside where the mother has erected a tomb to commemorate the one-year anniversary of her son's death, she catches the eye of the character of Death along with her companion Moon. As Death tries to figure out why mothers continue to grieve, she forces the mother to relive the past that leads to the fateful confrontation between Leonardo and her son. By weaving past and present events, Death finally understands the truth of motherhood. This forceful play requires powerful actors to enact this rich story.

Running time: 40 minutes.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

Zapata High School, September 24, 2018

AWARDS

2019 UIL One-Act Play Competition District 32-4A and advanced to the regional level. (Alternate to state contest with a 3-way tie to advance.)

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(2-3 m, 5 w, 3 flexible and ensemble)

MOTHER: Groom's mother. Early 50s, last survivor of her family.

DEATH: Flexible.

MOON: Flexible. Often referred to as Luna.

GROOM: 20 years old; appears in his mother's memories.

BRIDE'S MOTHER: (Or Father) Late 40s; wealthy landowner adjacent to Groom's land; has an only child. This part may be also played as Bride's Father changing articles as necessary.

BRIDE: 17; only survivor of the love triangle between her, Leonardo, and the Groom.

SERVANT: Early 40s; governess of Bride.

LEONARDO'S WIFE: Early 20s; left to raise two children after Leonardo's death.

LEONARDO'S MOTHER-IN-LAW: Early 50s; sole emotional support for her daughter.

ENSEMBLE/COUSIN: Shadows, Wedding Guests, and Whispers. COUSIN has a few lines.

ENSEMBLE MUSICIANS: Spanish guitar, cajon, violin, organic sounds; part of ensemble. The ensemble members playing guitar/cajon/harp should stay on stage throughout the production.

NOTE: *This play has some dialogue in Spanish; director may choose to use the English word that is provided in parenthesis.*

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SETTING

Turn of the century; one year after the death of the Groom and Leonardo; on a mountain top grotto; Andalusia, Spain.

SET

Tomb with an angel statue with arms large enough to hold an actress on the top of the tomb. There is also a bench.

LIGHTS / EFFECTS

Projection of a night sky and moon

Blue lights

Fog and light

Gobo projections transition to bright morning color

Gobo projection transitions to a bright star-filled night

Gobo projections transition to wedding bells and colors

Gobos transition to projection of a stormy night

MUSIC / SONGS

All songs should have the melody created by your cast.

- First song by the ensemble uses the words from the poem “Por Encontrar Un Beso Tuyo” (To Find a Kiss of Yours).
- Groom plays the guitar/violin.
- Transition between scenes can be played by the ensemble musicians.
- “Galana De La Tierra” (create your own melody) OR may be substituted with “Despierta La Novia” wedding song. (The alternate song is an old folksong for a wedding day; if you YouTube the title multiple versions will appear, or you may create your own rhythm.)
- Death sings, “La Luna Vino a La Fragua.”

PROPS

Single red rose

Lantern

Guitar/violin

Gift boxes with a pair of silk stockings

Flowers (2)

Knife

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Prologue

(AT RISE: A projection of a night sky with a moon. DEATH is curled asleep on the tomb, laying in the arms of the stone angel sitting atop the tomb. Slowly blue lights reveal the ENSEMBLE. They are shadows of beings that dot the stage; they are the spirits of memory of the Mother. MOTHER enters carrying a lit lantern and a single red rose to place at the base of the tomb. She is greeted by the song of her memories...)

ENSEMBLE: *(Singing.)* Por encontrar un beso tuyo, ¿qué daría yo? ¡Un beso errante de tu boca muerta para el amor!
(Tierra de sombra come mi boca.) Por contemplar tus ojos negros... *(To find a kiss of yours what would I give; A kiss that strayed from your lips; dead to love; My lips taste the dirt of shadows...)*

(MOTHER ends up facing GROOM as he appears from the ensemble. She reaches for his face, then slowly brings her hand down, realizing you can't touch a shadow of memory.)

MOTHER: Memories. Memories haunt my every waking moment.

(The ENSEMBLE shadows begin to surround MOTHER whispering softly, then slowly crescendo in their whispers to her.)

MOTHER: *(Cont'd.)* There is no running away from them. They whisper in my ear, they swirl in mists around me. *(ENSEMBLE have her imprisoned.)* They suffocate me with the knowledge of my culpability. Silence! Death, give me peace.

(ENSEMBLE memories are silent for a moment, move away from MOTHER and begin whispering again. Mother stands and watches the night; she prays silently. FX: There is a rush of fog and light and DEATH slowly awakens. She stands on top of the tomb.)

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DEATH: Luna!

(MOON enters from behind the tomb.)

DEATH: Luna, that soul calls for me. Why isn't she afraid of me?

MOON: Even though her soul calls you, you know it's not her time ...

DEATH: Silence!

(DEATH reveals herself to MOTHER.)

MOTHER: I know who you are. I've been waiting for you a long time.

DEATH: I don't frighten you?

MOTHER: No, all my family is dead. I live only with the memory of a son. As the last of my line, I am tired of being alone. La vida es triste sin familia.

DEATH: *(Translating to herself.)* Life is sad without family. Explain.

MOTHER: How does one explain the loss of a child? There are no words, so I had my ranch hands build this grotto as a commemoration to my son's memory. In the evenings, when all the work is done, I ride through the mountains to be at my son's side. I can feel his spirit here. He's waiting for me to join him.

DEATH: I have seen millions of mothers lose their sons, but your sorrow has turned dark and twisted. You make me curious about this bond you speak of. Show me.

(DEATH waves her hand. SFX: In the distance, we hear a guitar or violin begin. MOTHER sucks in her breath and looks around hesitantly.)

DEATH: *(Cont'd.)* Do you recognize that sound?

MOTHER: *(Joy and sorrow mixed into one.)* Yes, that is my son and his violin (or guitar). Why do you toy with me? Just take me to him. Take me home. Estoy cansada. *(I am tired.)*

End of Freeview

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