Reality Stars:
Greek Gods Edition

By Jonathan Yukich

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STORY OF THE PLAY

What happens when you mix the Greek gods with reality television? In this hilarious romp, the great Greek myths are explored within a reality show framework. Thirteen gods are put under one roof, but only one can survive to sit atop Mount Olympus. “Reality Stars: Greek Gods Edition” is an inventive retelling of Greek mythology where tempers flare, lovers quarrel, and rivalries ignite. With an added modern spin, even as far as letting the audience text in their votes, it’s must-see TV – er, theatre! Run time: 65 minutes.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(Cast of 15: 8 m, 7 w)

ZEUS: King of the gods.

HERA: The supreme goddess and patron of women; she was Zeus's wife, and his sister.

HADES: King of the dead.

POSEIDON: God of the sea.

DEMETER: Goddess of the grain.

APHRODITE: Goddess of love and beauty.

ARES: God of war.

HEPHAESTUS: God of blacksmiths, craftsmen, artisans, sculptors, metals, metallurgy, fire and volcanoes.

ARTEMIS: Twin of Apollo. Goddess of all animals, and the moon, and the hunt. Should be able to sing.

APOLLO: God of poetry, music and the arts. Should be able to sing.

ATHENA: Goddess of wisdom and the arts.

HERMES: Messenger of the gods.

DIONYSUS: God of theatre. Should be able to sing.

ROSIE DAY: Smiley, upbeat host of the show.

STAGEHAND / HESTIA: Goddess of hearth and home.

SETTING

The main setting is the palace of the gods, atop Mount Olympus. The design can be elaborate or minimal, classical or contemporary. Any approach could work well. Scene 1 opens at the TV studio which can be designated by a flashy sign of the show's name on an upstage curtain.

COSTUMES

Because the play is set in the present day, the gods should be in modern dress. It might be fun if there are modest suggestions in their fashions that reflect who each god is or was. For instance, a trident on Poseidon's tank top or a thunderbolt tattoo on Zeus's arm, etc.

Special costumes include beachwear for Ares, Aphrodite and Hephaestus, and a cap of invisibility for Hades.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Upbeat music and flashing lights will enhance the TV show opening in Scene 1.

It is up to the given production what songs Artemis, Apollo, and Dionysus sing in their challenge. Whatever songs are chosen, keep it fun and relatively brief, perhaps only an excerpt. Keep in mind that the singers are gods, so they should really be able to sing. This challenge allows the audience to vote if you can provide an actual number for texts to be sent. This is only a nominal vote; the winner must remain the scripted winner for the play to stay on course.

The challenge for Ares and Hermes has them searching under seats, asking audience members to get up or slide over. Their search should incorporate improvisation and ad-libs. Have fun with the searching while remaining true to the characters and the task.

Comical music playing under the action can enhance many of the other challenges.

Scene 1

(AT RISE: ROSIE DAY, the smiley, upbeat host of the show "Reality Stars," addresses the audience.)

ROSIE DAY: Ever wondered what happened to the Greek gods? You know, the ones with the lightning bolts and awesome beards? Did they just disappear? Not exactly. People stopped worshiping them, and so they were forced to depart their heavenly palace and blend with mortals in the real world. All these centuries, the divine have been mixed among us. For all you know, Apollo might be your dentist; Athena might be sitting next to you. No one is exactly sure what became of these gods – *(Cheesy reality host voice.)* - UNTIL NOW. We've tracked down each of the Olympians and invited them back for one last cosmic showdown! The winner earns the right to live atop glorious Mount Olympus forever! This is the story of thirteen gods packed into one house, with every second of their lives recorded! Welcome to *Reality Stars: Greek Gods Edition*! I'm your host, Rosie Day! Now let's hear from our contestants, and what they've *really* been up to! Cue the intro music!

(SHE exits. SFX: Upbeat theme MUSIC plays as gaudy LIGHTS flash and the GODS appear for their intros. MUSIC fades as characters speak. LIGHTS up on ZEUS.)

ZEUS: Hey, I'm Zeus. I used to be the king of the gods and ruler of the sky. Now I operate the Thunder Mountain ride at Disneyland. It's not quite the same.

(LIGHTS out on ZEUS and up on HERA.)

HERA: Hi, I'm Hera. Once the supreme goddess and patron of women, I'm now a divorce attorney in Jacksonville, Florida. I was Zeus's wife, and his sister. Don't judge.

(LIGHTS out on HERA and up on POSEIDON.)

POSEIDON: Yo, I'm Poseidon. Yeah, the ocean dude. I'm a freelance surfing coach in Costa Rica. Pretty sweet. Babes, waves, and rays 24/7. Except no rays at night. So more like 12/7. But still pretty sweet. Right on.

(LIGHTS out on POSEIDON and up on HADES.)

HADES: Greetings. I'm Hades. Former king of the dead. Today I run a New York City nightclub called The Underworld. It's where all the celebrities go. I know the Kardashians.

(LIGHTS out on HADES and up on APHRODITE.)

APHRODITE: Hi-ya! I'm Aphrodite. Goddess of love and beauty. Dreamy, aren't I? I run a hair salon in Paris, France. It's called – what else? – *Aphrodite's*. My motto: If I can't make you pretty, you're just ugly.

(LIGHTS out on APHRODITE and up on HEPHAESTUS.)

HEPHAESTUS: Um, I'm Hephaestus, god of fire and building stuff. Today I work at a Home Depot in Decatur, Georgia. Minimum wage. No benefits. I'm pretty overqualified.

(LIGHTS out on HEPHAESTUS and up on DEMETER.)

DEMETER: Hey, I'm Demeter. Formerly goddess of the grain, presently a nutrition coach. I gave humankind agriculture, and how have they repaid me? Today there's fast food on every corner. I think they missed the point.

(LIGHTS out on DEMETER and up on APOLLO and ARTEMIS, bursting with pep and confidence, some might say obnoxiously so.)

ARTEMIS: I'm Artemis!
APOLLO: I'm Apollo!

End of Freeview

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