

LOOK OUT, OLYMPUS!

A Musical in Two Acts

Book by Jeffrey Smart
Music and Lyrics by Scott Keys

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2

STORY OF THE PLAY

Here's a musical of mythical proportions! Ashley, a novice dryad, or tree sprite, makes her first visit to Mt. Olympus to meet the powerful pantheon of gods and goddesses of Ancient Greece. She is overwhelmed by the way the Great Olympians live and the power that they wield, and wants to grab a little of the glory for herself. She becomes friends with Persephone, the maiden of spring, who is running away from her brooding husband, Hades. Together the women set off on an ambitious odyssey to steal Zeus' lightning bolts, Poseidon's trident, and Hades' helmet of invisibility and take over Mt. Olympus! They are pursued by the vengeful goddess, Hera, and eventually learn an important lesson about the balance of power.

LOOK OUT, OLYMPUS!

3

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(4 m, 6 w, extras)

ARTEMIS: A goddess of three forms: the hunt (Artemis); the moon (Selene) and of mystery (Hecate).

ASHLEY: A dryad.

***HESTIA:** Goddess of the hearth.

ZEUS: God of thunder.

POSEIDON: God of the ocean.

HADES: God of the underworld.

****HERA:** Goddess of marriage.

***HERMES:** Messenger of the gods.

PERSEPHONE: Maiden of spring.

OLIVE: Another dryad.

CHORUS: Composed of Danae, Europa, Io, and Leda (4 female dancers) and any number of lesser gods such as Maenads, Dryads, Oreads, Naiads (women) and Dactyls, Corybants, Demi-gods, and Tritons (men).

EXTRAS: Other gods and goddesses may be represented by their appropriate props and serve as background in the crowd scenes (i.e. Apollo, a sun crest or lyre; Athena, an owl and a helmet; Ares a sword and shield; Demeter, a cornucopia or sheaf of wheat.)

** Do not have solo singing roles.*

*** Has only a few song lines.*

LOOK OUT, OLYMPUS!

4

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND SONGS

ACT I

Scene 1: The Great Hall of Olympus

“Here We Are on Mt. Olympus” - Chorus

“That’s The Way It Is” - Artemis, Zeus and Chorus

“The-Gods-Don’t-Play-Fair Lament” - Ashley, Persephone

Scene 2: The Underworld

“Suffering” - Persephone

Scene 3: The Sacred Grove

“Wondrous Gifts Under the Earth” - Hades and Persephone

Scene 4: Zeus’ bedchamber on Olympus

“The Mem’ry of Me” - Zeus with Dancers

Scene 5: The Sacred Grove

“Queen of the Universe” - Ashley, Persephone and Olive

Scene 6: Under the sea

“Go With the Flow” - Poseidon, Ashley, Persephone, Chorus

Scene 7: Upon a shore

“Bet on a God” - Poseidon, Zeus, Hades, Hera

ACT II

Scene 1: The Sacred Grove

“Look Out, Olympus!” - Olive and Chorus

Scene 2: The Hall of Wonders in the Underworld

“Head in the Clouds” - Ashley

“Wondrous Gifts Under the Earth” Reprise - Hades and Persephone

Scene 3: The Great Hall of Olympus

“The Sky’s the Limit” - Ashley, Olympians, Chorus

LOOK OUT, OLYMPUS!

5

SETTING

The basic setting consists of heavily pleated curtains, layered on top of one another at stately angles. In front of them are a few classical columns, some standing, some fallen over. Thrones and other furniture may be brought on as needed. On the curtains are projected appropriate gobos: clouds for Olympus, leaves for the Sacred Grove, etc.

PROPS

ZEUS: Thunderbolts, hat and cane.

POSEIDON: Flower that squirts water, trident, big flippers, hat and cane.

HADES: Hat and cane.

HERA: Hat and cane.

HESTIA: Trays and goblets, nectar and ambrosia.

ARTEMIS: Bow and arrows, large crescent moon, lantern long cloak with hood, knife.

HERMES: Several scrolls (one of pink parchment), small casket with golden rose and diamond pendant necklace.

OREADS and TRITONS: Bathing caps, swim fins, snorkles.

HALL OF WONDERS Helmet, golden lyre.

LOOK OUT, OLYMPUS!

6

COSTUMES

In general, the characters all wear togas or long tunics of varying lengths (longer for the older gods, shorter for Ashley and the younger demi-gods). Color can be used to separate the chorus groups, or they might simply wear jeans and T-shirts printed with *Dryad*, *Oread*, *Triton* etc. ... with a toga slung over one shoulder. Additional pieces, like Hermes' sandals and winged helmet, can further delineate characters. These items could be traditional, or modern such as sneakers and a ball cap with wings attached. Poseiden wears jams and a Hawaiian print shirt under his toga, as well as flippers. Hera can have an optional terry cloth toga and towel turban for after she gets drenched. Above all, the costumes should be fun and can be as anachronistic as you can imagine.

SOUND EFFECTS

(The following sound effects are included on a performance CD. Call Eldridge Publishing, 1-800-HI-STAGE, to order.)

Thunder, rain, crackling, explosions, waves, seagulls, rumbling, lyre playing.

End of Freeview

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