

Bride of Uforia

By
Whitney Ryan Garrity

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Like the 1950s sci-fi movies it spoofs, this play is sure to entertain!

The tranquil charm of a quaint lodge is threatened when a mysterious spacecraft lands nearby. The lodge staff and guests soon realize they must band together when they encounter the pilot of the spacecraft, the alluring but evil Queen Uforia, from the planet previously known as Mars. The resourceful queen has come to Earth after the ultimate battle of the sexes wiped out the male population on her planet. She is out to capture every able-bodied man on Earth and return with them to the waiting Uforian females. Her powerful ray gun is capable of "zombifying" anyone who stands in her path.

What can the humans do? Proprietress Lottie Putnam only feels courageous in the kitchen, while her teenaged niece Bianca wants to run away with the handsome Peyton Mayhew, an escaped convict. Handyman Caleb is helpless and hopeless, especially around one of the guests, the beautiful heiress Julia Radcliffe. Two men who have come to investigate the landing, Trevor Scott, a cynical reporter, and Professor Wendell Teasdale, a noted astrophysicist, argue over who will sacrifice himself to save the planet. But time is running out if they hope to save all of mankind from being groomed for the Bride of Uforia!

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

Bride of Uforia was given a reading at Tyler (TX) Civic Theatre's New Play Festival on June 14, 2008. The play was produced by C.A.T.S. Playhouse, Lubbock Texas, under the direction of playwright Whitney Ryan Garrity; with technical direction by Tim McIntire, costumes by Beth Bass, assistant direction by Peter Contreras and stage combat choreographed by Thomas Nazworth.

Bride of Uforia opened August 8th, 2008 and ran for 6 performances, with the following original cast:

Bianca Putnam: Jacie Hood
Lottie Putnam: Mackenzie Mealem
Caleb Shepherd/Announcer: Todd Eldridge
Peyton Mayhew: Chaps Tucker
Julia Radcliffe: Aimee Eldridge
Trevor Scott: Jesse Ruiz
Prof. Wendell Teasdale: Peter Contreras
Uforia: Kim Klafka

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(4 m, 4 w)

BIANCA PUTNAM: A very pretty girl of 19. Bianca is rebellious and headstrong. Like most teenagers, the world spins around her.

LOTTIE PUTNAM: Bianca's aunt and proprietress of the lodge, Putnam's Perch. Practical and "no nonsense." Lottie is also a compassionate and maternal figure; 50s.

CALEB SHEPHERD: The handyman. Caleb is not very bright and something of a hick, but is also good-natured and full of heart; 20s.

PEYTON MAYHEW: An escaped convict, strong and handsome. He is truly a man who is a victim of circumstances; 20s.

JULIA RADCLIFFE: An heiress. Julia is a beautiful and pampered woman searching for her place in the world; 20s.

TREVOR SCOTT: A newspaper reporter, cynical and sarcastic, but nevertheless charming; early 30s.

PROF. WENDELL TEASDALE: A British professor of astrophysics, an educated intellectual who can also be a bit stuffy; 50s.

UFORIA: The alien. Uforia is beautiful in a cold way and extremely intelligent; 30s (*in earth years*).

SETTING

The interior of the Putnam's Perch, a quaint little fishing lodge in the rural town of Fishkill, upstate New York; Autumn, 1956.

The lodge is very rustic and cozy. Extreme DSR, a door leads to the kitchen and other downstairs rooms. USL, a set of steps leads upstairs to the guest rooms. The USC wall is dominated by a set of draped French doors, 2 steps lead from the doors into the room. USR a bar is set with 2 stools positioned in front of it. Shelves containing various bottles, glasses, etc. can be seen from behind the bar. A large swordfish is mounted on a plaque behind the bar. SL is a doorway that leads to the front door and outside the inn. A table containing a large 1950s style radio and a telephone is extreme DSL. The center of the room is divided into 2 areas: a small, round dining table and 3 chairs at R, in front of the bar; and a sitting area at L, which includes a loveseat, a comfortable chair, and a small table with a reading lamp and a coffee table in front of the loveseat. The furnishings of the room are worn but homey.

ACT I

Scene 1: Late afternoon.

Scene 2: A few moments later.

Scene 3: Later that evening.

ACT II

Scene 1: Evening.

Scene 2: Later.

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: SFX: A popular dance tune of the period can be heard playing on the radio. The LIGHTS fade up to reveal Putnam's Perch. It is late afternoon. At present, BIANCA PUTNAM is in the middle of the room, dancing with an imaginary partner. She wears a bright-colored dress with a full skirt. LOTTIE PUTNAM enters from the stairs and watches Bianca dance - unnoticed by the girl - with her arms akimbo. Lottie wears a full white apron over a nondescript dress. Bianca executes a fancy turn and stops in mid-spin, embarrassed that Lottie has seen her.)

BIANCA: Oh, Aunt Lottie! I –

LOTTIE: *(Coming into the room, smiling.)* Oh now, child.

Don't worry yourself. That was a nice bit of dancing. And I dare say this music is much better than that noise I usually catch you listening to. I cut quite a rug in my day, if I do say so myself ... and I *do* say so!

BIANCA: I just bet you did. *(Moving to LOTTIE and pulling her CS.)* Dance with me, Auntie!

LOTTIE: Don't be foolish, Bianca. I haven't the time! There's dinner to prepare and laundry to finish, not to mention—

(SFX: The MUSIC stops abruptly. An ANNOUNCER is heard. LOTTIE moves to the radio.)

ANNOUNCER: We interrupt this program with a special bulletin. New York scientists are still baffled by the strange object that fell from the sky this morning, landing in Pritchard Field. In what might be a related incident, several witnesses upstate claim to have seen some sort of unidentified flying object. An investigation is currently underway to determine—

LOTTIE: *(Snaps off the radio.)* Nonsense!

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BIANCA: But don't you think it's kind of romantic? I mean, something dropping out of the sky, practically right in our backyard. It's ... it's as if the stars themselves were trying to tell us something!

LOTTIE: I'll wager they're trying to tell us that dinner is going to be late this evening! Besides, Pritchard Field is hardly in our backyard, Bianca. It's a good 40 miles from here!

BIANCA: And what about the UFO? What do you suppose that could be?

LOTTIE: I don't suppose it to be anything at all. Now, please finish straightening up in here. I'll see what I can throw on the stove for dinner. Fortunately, we only have one guest to feed.

BIANCA: Yes, ma'am.

LOTTIE: *(Muttering to herself as she exits into the kitchen.)*
UFO's? What ever next?!

(BIANCA watches Lottie go, then switches on the radio again. She goes about the room, straightening, as she listens.)

ANNOUNCER: Prof. Wendell Teasdale, the renowned British astrophysicist, has been summoned from Princeton University to help in the investigation of the mysterious object. In other news, escaped prisoner, Peyton Mayhew...

(BIANCA starts at the name and rushes to the radio.)

ANNOUNCER: *(Cont'd.)* ... is still at large. This convicted murderer is considered to be very dangerous. Anyone with information...

LOTTIE: *(Off. Overlapping.)* Bianca ...?

ANNOUNCER: Pertaining to the whereabouts of—

(BIANCA quickly snaps off the radio and busies herself as LOTTIE re-enters from the kitchen.)

End of Freeview

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