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BIG DOG PUBLISHING
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By Zeus! Olympus' Got Talent!

SPOOF. Good evening, satyrs and dryads, nymphs and centaurs. Live from Mount Olympus, home of the gods, welcome to the reality TV show, "Olympus' Got Talent." There's more talent here than a Hydra can have heads...and that's a lot! Gods and demigods alike will demonstrate their diverse and amazing talents for your viewing pleasure. Zeus will break dance, Circe will attempt to turn audience members into animals, Aphrodite will "sing," and Athena will recite the entire periodic table. Tune in next week for semifinals!

Performance Time: Approximately 30-45 minutes.

CHARACTERS

(6 M, 13 F, 6 flexible)

(Doubling possible.)

HERMES: Host of "Olympus' Got Talent"; trickster and messenger god who hates Twitter; wears a postal carrier uniform; male.

POSEIDON: Judge on "Olympus' Got Talent"; god of the seas and laidback surfer dude; wears swimming trunks, an Hawaiian shirt, flip flops or scuba flippers; male.

HERA: Judge on "Olympus' Got Talent"; Zeus's wife and goddess of marriage who is bossy and overbearing; wears a purple business suit; female.

APOLLO: Judge on "Olympus' Got Talent"; Zeus' son and god of poetry, healing, music, and the sun; wears yellow clothing and sunglasses; male.

ARTEMIS: Judge on "Olympus' Got Talent"; Apollo's twin sister and goddess of wild things and the moon; huntress dressed as a hiker; female.

HADES: Judge on "Olympus' Got Talent"; god of the underworld; wears a black business suit; male.

ZEUS: Contestant on "Olympus' Got Talent"; break dances but isn't very good at it; lord of the sky and ruler of the gods; male.

DEMETER: Hades' wife who loves to shop; goddess of the harvest; wears overalls, work boots, a straw hat and carries a spade; female.

PERSEPHONE: Demeter and Hades' daughter who loves to shop; dressed like a spring maiden and wears a floral dress.

APHRODITE: Contestant on "Olympus' Got Talent"; lip-syncs but is popular with the male judges; goddess of love; wears a red dress and heels; female.

HESTIA: Contestant on "Olympus' Got Talent"; makes really good chocolate-chip cookies; goddess of the hearth; wears a matronly dress and apron; female.

- ATHENA:** Contestant on "Olympus' Got Talent" who attempts to recite the entire periodic table according to atomic number; Zeus' daughter, the goddess of wisdom and battle; wears a tweed suit and glasses; female.
- NIKE:** Cheerleader who is Athena's best friend; goddess of victory; wears a cheerleading uniform; female.
- CIRCE:** Contestant on "Olympus' Got Talent"; enchantress who wants to turn the studio audience into animals; female.
- ARES:** Contestant on "Olympus' Got Talent" who attempts to get members of the studio audience in the first and second rows to fight with each other; god of war; dressed in camouflage and leather; male.
- ERIS:** Contestant on "Olympus' Got Talent" who attempts to get members of the studio audience in the first and second rows to fight with each other; goddess of discord and companion to Ares; dressed in camouflage and leather; female.
- ALEC:** Fury Alecto; wears all-black Gothic clothing; female.
- TRISH:** Fury Tisiphone; wears all-black Gothic clothing; female.
- MEG:** Fury Megaera; wears all-black Gothic clothing; female.
- CALLIOPE:** Poetry muse who speaks in rhyme; wears a large white blouse and pants, very poetic looking; flexible.
- THALIA:** Muse of comedy who tells bad jokes; wears a clown costume; flexible.
- CLIO:** History muse; dressed like a nerdy professor; flexible.
- EUTERPE:** Muse of music who can't sing; dressed like a rock star; flexible.
- MELPOMENE:** Melodramatic Muse of tragedy; wears all-black clothing; flexible.
- TERPSICHORE:** Muse of dance who loves to perform interpretive dance when she speaks; wears a ballerina costume; flexible.

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Setting

Mount Olympus.

Set

Set of reality TV show "Olympus' Got Talent." There is a table with five chairs. All the chairs are on one side of the table. Cards with the omega sign (Ω) are on the table.

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Props

Cell phone, for Hades

Plate of chocolate-chip cookies

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Sound Effects

Sappy love song

Disco music

"What did the minotaur say
to Theseus when he figured out
the Labyrinth using a piece of string?"

That was a-MAZE-ing!"

—Thalia

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(AT RISE: Mount Olympus. There is a table and five chairs, all on one side of the table. Cards with the omega sign are on the table. Hermes, the host, enters.)

HERMES: (To audience.) Good evening, ladies and gentleman, satyrs and dryads, nymphs and centaurs. Live from Mount Olympus, home of the gods, I'm pleased to welcome you to "Olympus' Got Talent." I'm your host, Hermes, the messenger of the gods. Didn't have time to change after work, I'm afraid. Anyway, tonight, we have more talent here than a Hydra can have heads, and believe me, that's a lot. Gods and demigods alike are demonstrating their diverse and amazing talents for your viewing pleasure here on Mount Olympus for the grand prize of a year's supply of nectar and ambrosia of the gods, a weekend getaway to Lemnos Island, as well as a private tour of Hephaestus' forge, and, finally, a golden apple from the Garden of the Hesperides, courtesy of Hera, Queen of the Olympians. Let's bring out our esteemed judges. First off, he's one *sunny* guy to say the least. Please give a warm round of welcome to Apollo!

(Apollo enters.)

APOLLO: Thank you, Hermes. But you forgot to mention that I am also the god of poetry, music, healing, and prophecy. (Sits down on one of the chairs.)

HERMES: Whatever. (To audience.) Next, we have one groovy, water-loving deity. This hip god, nick-named "Earthshaker," likes long walks on the beach and extreme water sports. But you will want to stay on his good side because he is also the god of storms and earthquakes! Let's give it up to Poseidon!

(Poseidon enters.)

POSEIDON: *(To Hermes.)* Whoa! Dude! Hermes, my winged-shoed dude! Lay one on me, man! *(Gives Hermes a high-five.)* Sorry I'm late, dude. I was just catching some waves, man. *(Sits down next to Apollo. To Apollo.)* Hey, dude, I saw your chariot parked out back. Totally in flames, man.

APOLLO: It's pulling the sun. It's supposed to be on fire.

POSEIDON: Whoa...you're the sun dude. Get it. Far out.

HERMES: *(To audience.)* Next, we have the goddess of the hunt and the moon. This single—and I mean very single lady—and outdoor nature enthusiast enjoys archery and hunting...and more hunting. Please give up your hands for Artemis!

(Artemis enters and grumpily sits down next to Poseidon)

ARTEMIS: *(To Hermes.)* So, when is this going to be over? I have a stag to hunt.

HERMES: *(Ignores her. To audience.)* Finally, I am pleased to introduce one of my longtime friends and our final judge. God of festivities and theatre, this happy-go-lucky deity is always ready for a party! Let's see a show of hands for Dionysus! *(Hades enters and is on his cell phone. Surprised.)* Hades, god of the underworld?

HADES: *(Into phone.)* What now, Persephone?...Sisyphus won't roll the boulder up the hill anymore? Why?...Because he says it just rolls back down again? Well, duh, tell him it's Tartarus, eternal punishment! Tell him doing back-breaking and pointless tasks is all part of eternal damnation. And if that doesn't work, set the Furies on him or something...What? They took the night off? You have to be kidding me!

HERMES: What are you doing here, Hades?

HADES: *(Into phone.)* Oh, and remember to take Cerberus on his walk...I know that each of his three heads go in different

directions. You just have to be firm with him...What? Are you watching the Villa Shopping Channel again?...They should have made you the goddess of shopping instead of the spring. Hello? Disconnected. Just great. Finding a cell phone provider that gets reception in the underworld is about as hard as Medusa finding a date.

POSEIDON: Hades! How you doing, big bro? Long time, no see.

HADES: Well, unlike you, little brother, spending your time wind-surfing and drinking piña colodas on tropical beaches, I actually have work to do. Supervising, processing, and judging the entire population of the dead isn't an afternoon at the chariot races, believe me. Not to mention, I am seriously understaffed. Did you know I only have Charon and one lousy boat to ferry the dead across the River Styx and into my realm? Can you imagine? Around 200,000 people dying every day and only one dinky little boat to get them all across.

HERMES: Hey, Hades! What are you doing here? Dionysus is supposed to be judging.

HADES: I got a message from Dionysus saying that he can't come due to extenuating circumstances. He asked me to fill in. Let me rephrase that. He asked Zeus to find someone to fill in, and Zeus told me that unless I wanted a lightening bolt up my Olympic backside, I would be judging tonight. That a sufficient enough answer for you?

HERMES: Message? I don't remember delivering any messages to you about that. Did he send Iris, Hera's messenger, or something?

HADES: No, Zeus Tweeted me.

HERMES: Zeus is on Twitter?

POSEIDON: Dude, all of us are on Twitter.

HERMES: (*Upset.*) But delivering messages...that's my job!

APOLLO: Well, you are not completely out of a job. You are still the god of tricksters, too, right, Hermes?

ARTEMIS: And thieves, travelers, and shepherds.

HERMES: I guess...

(Hades sits down in a chair.)

HADES: So, can we start this competition, or what? I have an underworld to run, and as much as I adore my wife Persephone, she is more likely redecorating the palace in floral than actually running the Underworld. By Zeus, I hate floral!

APOLLO: Seriously, let's get started. Some of us actually have to get up early tomorrow and get to work. Sun has to come up every day, even on the weekends. And, believe me, that stinks worse than King Augeas's stables.

ARTEMIS: I want to know what Dionysus's extenuating circumstances were for bailing out on us worse than Jason did Medea.

HADES: Apparently, Pan, the god of the wilderness, just got a new HD home theatre system at his place and they are watching "America's Got Talent."

POSEIDON: No way, dude. I'm missing that? Bummer!

HERMES: Please, we need to start the show...now that we have all our judges.

(Hera enters.)

HERA: Not all your judges.

ARTEMIS: Hera?

POSEIDON: *(To Hera.)* Whoa, babe. What are you doing here?

HERA: Well, I decided I wanted to be a judge.

HERMES: But we already have our judges, Hera. Four. We only need four.

HERA: Who is Queen of the Olympians?

HERMES: Please, take a seat at the judges' table.

HERA: Thank you. Aren't you going to introduce me?

HERMES: Huh? Oh, yeah. Sure. *(To other Judges and audience.)* Everyone, this is Hera, queen of the gods, goddess of marriage.

APOLLO: *(To Artemis, in a stage whisper.)* More like goddess of jealousy.

HERA: Did you say something, Apollo?

APOLLO: Nothing, stepmother.

HERA: Good. Thank you, Hermes. Now, why don't I explain how this show works to the viewers at home.

HERMES: But I am the host. *(Hera gives him a scathing look.)* I mean, of course. Go right ahead.

HERA: *(To audience.)* Each contestant will perform for us, the judges. If a judge doesn't like his or her performance they will lift up their omega card. As you know, omega is the last letter of the Greek alphabet, meaning end. If the contestant finishes his or her performance with two or less cards, they proceed to next week's semifinals. If three judges lift their card before the performer is finished, then the performer is out. They are then escorted backstage and given over to the Furies.

[END OF FREEVIEW]