

Sleeping Beauty



A Very Merry Fairy Tale

Mike Noland

BIG DOG PUBLISHING

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BIG DOG PUBLISHING
P.O. Box 1401
Rapid City, SD 57709

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Sleeping Beauty: A Very Merry Tale was first performed at North Little Rock High School East November 2012: Zoie Griffith, Leah Robinson, and Skyla Tinkle, student directors.

EMMY: Amber Mathys

ABBEY: Char Dupins

OOMEY: Rachel McKinnie

MABRY: Rebecca Wing

JACK: Phillip Lynch

KING JOHN: Evan Dowers

QUEEN HATTIE: Solane Nemera

ELINORE: Daria Beard

BO PEEP: Taemora Williams

PRINCESS ROSE: Laura Leigh Turner

BAILEY: Emily Leger

PRINCE WENDLE: Kirk Schultz

SEAMSTRESS: Mallory Wilkerson

JACOB: J.J. Askins

GUEST 1: Hannah Tingle

GUEST 2: Addison Stadther

GUEST 3: Sarah Runnells

GUEST 4: Diana Weeks

GUEST 5: Alex Adams

CITIZENS: Hannah Beck, Callie Bonds, Zakiya Jones, Faith Carr, Sarah Khatib, Cathy Carson, Tamesia Kindred, Andrea Coven, Delena Lattimore, Blair Eubanks, Brianna Mann, Rachel Flippin, Tyler McKay, Lauren Foster, Edrian Miller, Lydia Gates, Isabel Murry, Kaycee Gateley, Tiger Nquyen, Hannah Hagerman, Hayley Scott, Nicole Hill, Victoria Sexton, Victoria Holloway, Maddie Sorensen, Katheryn Horn, Karoline Strauch, Anthony Humphrey, Kaitlyn Williams, Devyn Johnson, Hannah Woodward.

Sleeping Beauty A Very Merry Fairy Tale

FARCE. The laughs never end in this outlandish version of “Sleeping Beauty.” After a magical talking frog promises the childless King and Queen a daughter, the couple hosts a baby shower and invites everyone in the kingdom except for an old fairy, who everyone thought was either retired or dead. Angry she wasn’t invited, the old fairy places a curse on the Princess in which she will prick her finger and fall over dead at the age of 15. Trying to “help,” a not-so-bright fairy reverses the curse by proclaiming that the Princess will prick her finger and fall into a deep sleep for 100 years until she is awakened by a prince. (Why 100 years and not one year? Oops!) Luckily, 100 years later, a prince hunting for unicorns arrives and awakens the Princess, and the whole kingdom parties like it’s 1699!

Performance time: Approximately 60 minutes.



"Sleeping Beauty" by Henry Meynell Rheam

ABOUT THE STORY

The story of Sleeping Beauty was first published by Charles Perrault in 1697 and was entitled "The Beauty Sleeping in the Wood." The Brothers Grimm also published the story entitled, "Little Briar Rose" in 1812. The Perrault version includes a second part to the story in which the princess and prince are wed and have two children named Dawn and Day. The Prince has to keep the children a secret from his stepmother, an evil ogre who would like to eat the children for dinner. The Brothers Grimm version excludes this storyline and ends the story with the prince arriving and awakening the princess from her slumber.

Characters

(4 M, 10 F, 5 flexible, opt. extras)
(Doubling possible.)

KING: Childless king who would like to have an heir, learn grammar, and write rap songs; male.

QUEEN HATTIE: Childless queen who was promised a daughter by a magical talking frog; female.

PRINCESS ROSE: The King and Queen's daughter via the magical talking frog (aka Sleeping Beauty); female.

BAILEY: Princess Rose's lady-in-waiting who used to work for Snow White's mother; female.

ABBEY: Fairy who grants Princess Rose goodness and righteousness; wears a brightly colored outfit; female.

MABRY: Fairy who grants Princess Rose beauty and guarantees she won't be a stuck-up snoot about it; wears a brightly colored outfit; female.

EMMY: Fairy who grants Princess Rose wealth so the King and Queen don't have to worry about college tuition; wears a brightly colored outfit; female.

ELINORE: An old evil fairy who wasn't invited to the King and Queen's baby shower and places a curse on Princess Rose which states she will prick her finger on a spindle and fall over dead; looks like an ugly wild-haired witch; female.

OOMEY: A not-so-bright fairy who tries to "reverse" Elinore's curse by proclaiming that Princess Rose will prick her finger on a spindle and fall into a deep sleep that will last 100 years until she is awakened by a prince; wears a brightly colored outfit; female.

JACK: Character from "Jack in the Beanstalk" who thinks his fairy tale is still a really good story and again sells his cow to buy some "magic" beans, only he's afraid of heights so he can't climb the beanstalk; male.

BO PEEP: Of “Little Bo Peep” fame who has lost her sheep yet again; wears a Bo Peep costume with a cape or cloak that covers her costume and carries a staff; female.

SEAMSTRESS: Royal seamstress who is flamboyant and loud; female.

PRINCE WENDLE: Unicorn hunter who tends to make premature entrances; male.

JACOB GRIMM: Prince Wendle’s hunting partner who has a vivid imagination and a brother named Wilhelm Grimm; male.

GUEST 1: Sells Jack some “magic” beans; flexible.

GUEST 2: Annoyed with Jack trying to take over the story; flexible.

GUEST 3: Loves food a little too much, especially brownies; flexible.

GUEST 4: Would like to turn the castle into an amusement park with people dressed like large talking rodents; flexible.

GUEST 5: Doesn’t believe Jack’s story about magical beans or a giant beanstalk; flexible.

EXTRAS (Opt.): As Guests.

Setting

Fairytale castle.

Set

Interior of castle. Backdrop and/or misc set pieces can be used.

Castle sewing room. Old, dirty and has a spinning wheel.

Forest near the castle. Empty stage or a forest backdrop can be used.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene 1: In front of the curtain.

Scene 2: Inside the castle.

Scene 3: Outside the castle. Can be played in front of the curtain or on the side of the stage.

Scene 4: Inside the castle, 15 years later.

Scene 5: Inside the castle.

Scene 6: The castle's sewing room.

Scene 7: Inside the castle, moments later.

Scene 8: In a forest near the castle, 100 years later.

Scene 9: Inside the castle, a short time later.

Props

Tray or plate of snacks including brownies	Old woman disguise, for Elinore
5 Magic wands, for Fairies	Sign that reads, "100 Years Later" on one side and
Pillows or cushions	"Jack and the Beanstalk is Still a Great Story" on the back
Sign that reads, "Old Spindles Destroyed by Order of the King."	Tables
Spindles	Trays of assorted food, snacks
Box	
Parchment	
Spinning wheel	

Special Effects

Rim shot
Lightning
Thunder
Wolf howling
Banging on a door
Dance music

*"I SHOULD HAVE TOLD HER
TO PUT ON A NIGHTGOWN
INSTEAD OF A DRESS,
'CAUSE SHE'S GONNA NEED IT."*

—OoMey

SCENE 1

(AT RISE: In front of the curtain. Fairies Emmy, Abbey, and Ooley enter. The Fairies look at the audience, whisper to each other, and line up.)

EMMY: (To audience.) Thank you, one and all, for granting us but a brief bit of time to entertain you.

ABBEY: (To audience.) The tale we tell will be one of happiness and, alas, sorrow.

OOLEY: (To audience.) 'Tis a tale that doth start with love.

MABRY: (From behind the audience, shouts.) Hold up! Wait a minute! (Making her way to the stage.) I can't believe you all started without me! Look at these people! Don't they deserve the whole fairytale experience...with all the magic and mystery included? And, more importantly, why didn't you wait for me? I just flew in from Germany, and boy are my arms tired. (Rim shot. Mabry stands beside the other Fairies onstage.)

EMMY: Your buffoonery seems a poor attempt at covering your tardiness.

MABRY: (Confused.) What did you say? (To other Fairies.) What did she say? (To Emmy.) And why are you speaking that way?

ABBEY: She says you're late.

OOLEY: (To Mabry.) We use Old English to enhance the fairytale effect.

MABRY: You don't have to talk like a Shakespearean greeting card to sell a good story. All they want is a fun, fresh plot with excitement and thrills. Plus, a few laughs wouldn't hurt, either. (To audience.) Isn't that right? Don't you want to laugh? (Wait for audience response.)

EMMY: Whew! What a relief! I get so tired talking like that.

ABBEY: It will make things so much easier.

OOLEY: Then let's start over. (To audience.) Once upon a time— (Gets an idea. To Fairies.) Wait. How about... (To

audience.) A long time ago, when fairies, elves, witches, and ogres were everywhere...

MABRY: That's much better. Now we can get this play started.

EMMY/ABBEY: *(To audience.)* There was a beautiful Queen and a handsome King...

OOLEY/MABRY: *(To audience.)* And all they wanted was their own offspring.

EMMY/ABBEY: *(To audience.)* They had been trying for years without any success.

OOLEY/MABRY: *(To audience.)* And let me tell you, that can really cause stress.

EMMY/ABBEY: *(To audience.)* But, suddenly, without warning, and from out of nowhere...

OOLEY/MABRY: *(To audience.)* Came a frog who could talk. Cross our heart! We swear!

EMMY/ABBEY: *(To audience.)* And the Frog told the Queen, "Within a year you'll give birth..."

OOLEY/MABRY: *(To audience.)* "To a daughter that's lovelier than any on earth."

EMMY/ABBEY: *(To audience.)* Before her birth, the King threw a great celebration...

OOLEY/MABRY: *(To audience.)* Inviting family and friends from all over the nation.

EMMY/ABBEY: *(To audience.)* There were fairies he invited to join in the fun.

OOLEY/MABRY: *(To audience.)* For magic gifts they would bring, would be second to none.

EMMY/ABBEY: *(To audience.)* So this, my friends, is where our play will begin.

OOLEY/MABRY: *(To audience.)* We hope that you like it.

FAIRIES: *(To audience.)* And we'll see you again...

SCENE 2

(AT RISE: Inside the castle. Guests 1-5 and Jack have their backs to the audience and are doing some kind of warm-up exercise like aerobics or jumping jacks. They have no idea the curtain is up and the audience is watching.)

GUEST 5: *(To Guests 1-4 and Jack.)* Now let's get those bodies warmed up! We are going to have a great show because we have such a super audience [tonight]! *[Or insert "today" or time of performance.]*

(Everyone cheers, claps, and shakes their booties. They all turn around at the same time and freeze when they see the audience. They are shocked but they recover by getting into character and starting the scene.)

GUEST 1: My, but this is a magnificent celebration. What exactly is this all about?

GUEST 2: You don't know?

GUEST 1: Why, no. I merely stopped here hoping to sell these magic beans.

GUEST 2: Magic beans? What idiot would want beans?

JACK: Beans? Did you say, "beans"? I love beans!

GUEST 1: Well, these aren't just any beans. They're magic beans.

JACK: Wow, really? What's magical about them?

GUEST 1: Well...they are colorful...and...they grow pretty fast...and they come from a magic garden...

JACK: I would love to buy them, but I'm a little short on moolah, if you know what I mean. However, I do have some livestock.

GUEST 1: Really? What kind of livestock?

JACK: I have a cow. I could trade my cow for your magic beans.

GUEST 1: That's the best offer I've had in a fortnight. It's a deal!

(Guest 1 and Jack shake hands.)

GUEST 2: All right, Jack, why don't you and your beans stalk off somewhere else. This is not your story.

JACK: But mine's a great story! Kids love it! It's got action and suspense and a giant!

GUEST 2: Maybe next year. *(To Jack and Guest 1.)* Now get out of here, the both of you, so we can start our story.

GUEST 3: *(Has a plate full of assorted snacks including brownies and is talking and eating at the same time.)* Does anyone know why we are having this lavish affair? Oh, my gosh! Have you tried these brownies? They are sooo good!

GUEST 4: Eeeew, I haven't seen eating like that since Henry the Eighth's last bachelor party. Save some food for the rest of the country! Apparently, the King and Queen have a very special announcement.

GUEST 3: I hope it means we get more food.

GUEST 4: We would, if you would stop eating. Look! There's the King and Queen now.

(King and Queen enter.)

KING: *(To Guests.)* Welcome, one and all. I hope you are enjoying yourselves and the food we had prepared.

GUEST 3: *(Shouts.)* You're out of brownies!

KING: *(Annoyed.)* We shall get someone on that right away. *(To Guests.)* We have asked you all here to share some wonderful news. Me and the Queen is—

QUEEN HATTIE: No, dear. It's not "Me and the Queen is."

KING: What?

QUEEN HATTIE: You said, "Me and the queen is." That is incorrect.

KING: (*Gritting his teeth.*) Sorry, dear, but that's not really the point.

QUEEN HATTIE: Still, you *are* the King, and I don't want you to look foolish. It's not called the "Queen's English" for nothing. Go on, then.

KING: (*To Guests.*) The Queen and I have an exciting announcement.

GUEST 3: You're opening a bakery?! Because you could make a fortune! (*Indicating food.*) This stuff rocks! But you're the King, so I guess you already have a fortune. Sorry, never mind. Go on...

KING: (*Annoyed.*) Thank you so much. (*To Guests.*) As many of you know, the Queen and I have been blessed with peace, prosperity, and good health. However, we have been missing one thing: a child.

GUEST 2: (*Screams.*) There's a child missing! Oh, no! We have to start looking immediately! Everyone, spread out and look for the missing child!

(*Guests scream and panic and start running around in circles.*)

KING: (*To Guests.*) No! Stop, please! There is no missing child. I just meant that we wanted a child and didn't have one. You see?

(*It takes a second for this to sink in and then the Guests get it.*)

GUESTS: Ohhhhhh...

KING: (*Aside to Queen.*) Would you like to try? These people are really quite dumb.

QUEEN HATTIE: (*To Guests.*) We have wanted a child for a very long time. We have visited all sorts of magical beings in hopes of getting help in having a child. But, alas, it was not meant to be...not until last week. As I finished taking my monthly bath, a frog leaped out of the water.

GUESTS: Eeeeeew!

QUEEN HATTIE: It was a magical talking frog.

GUESTS: Ooooooh...

QUEEN HATTIE: And he said, "Your wish shall be fulfilled, and before a year passes, you will bring a daughter into the world."

(Not sure what to say, the Guests are silent. Guests then look around at each other.)

GUEST 4: So a magical talking *frog* told you that you would have a baby girl?

QUEEN HATTIE: Yes!

GUEST 4: Are you sure it was a frog and not a toad?

GUEST 3: *(Sarcastic.)* Sure, because it makes more sense that it was a talking toad.

GUEST 4: *(Annoyed.)* I'm merely trying to establish what it was. *(To Queen.)* Did it have slimy skin or dry warty-looking skin?

[END OF FREEVIEW]