

Greece Is the Word: The Zeusical!

*Book, Music, and Lyrics
by Stephen Murray*

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DEDICATION

This show was developed at Boston's New Opera and Musical Theater Initiative (NOMTI) Advanced Writers Lab. The author is grateful for all the artists who contributed their talents and expertise in the development of this musical.

STORY OF THE MUSICAL

Welcome to the Mount Olympus Diner where Zeus is the chef and Hera is your waitress. The food is great, but what the customers really love about the diner are the stories told there, the stories of Greek mythology. Diner Network star, Sparky Guy, arrives to do research on the restaurant and is treated to a variety of tales. This musical features contemporary and family-friendly retellings of the myths in the scenes *Hades and Persephone*, *Echo and Narcissus*, and *Arachne and Athena*. A Greek Chorus of diner staff takes on multiple roles and keeps the action moving in each story. You'll meet delivery Amazons, a track star named Nike, and a singing three-headed dog Cerberus. Add a catchy score and flexible casting options, and you've got a show that's sure to be a hit with your audience and actors.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(4 - 5 m, 11 - 14 w, 3 flexible, + extras) *indicates solo singer*

Female Characters

- *HERA:** Head waitress at the Mount Olympus Diner, Queen of the Gods, and storyteller.
- *PANDORA:** Assistant waitress, enthusiastic employee obsessed with boxes.
- *CASSANDRA:** Kitchen assistant who has a knack for predicting the future, but no one believes her.
- *PERSEPHONE:** Goddess of Vegetation, love interest of Hades.
- *DEMETER:** Goddess of the Harvest, mother of Persephone.
- *ECHO:** A Wood Nymph (Dryad) in love with Narcissus.
- ERATO:** A Dryad in love with food.
- PHOEBE:** A Dryad in love with food.
- PEGGY:** A Dryad in love with food.
- NIKE:** Winged athlete.
- *ARACHNE:** Overconfident weaver, future spider.
- *ATHENA:** Goddess of Wisdom, disguises herself as an old woman to trick Arachne.
- ARTEMIS:** Goddess of the Hunt.
- APHRODITE:** Goddess of Love.
- AMAZONS:** Military delivery people.

Male Characters

- *ZEUS:** Owner and chef of diner, King of the Gods, father to Athena.
- *HELIOS:** Pilot of the chariot that brings the sun across the sky.
- *HADES:** God of the Underworld, sports announcer in the weaving scene.
- *NARCISSUS:** A very handsome young man who falls in love with his reflection.
- SPARKY GUY:** (non-singing) TV celebrity from the Diner Channel.

Flexible roles

- *CERBERUS:** The 3-headed dog of the underworld.
- CHORUS:** Various patrons enter the restaurant and interact with the staff. Some will be indicated in the script; others are up to you. Feel free to have a Cyclops come in for a cup of coffee, a Minotaur order a sandwich, or any mythological creature. When actors are not engaged in a specific role, they are part of the chorus.

Doubling Options: AMAZONS and CERBERUS. PERSEPHONE and ARACHNE. DEMETER and ATHENA. NIKE and ECHO. HELIOS and NARCISSUS.

SETTING

A Greek diner with part of the kitchen area visible to the audience. Greek flags and décor brighten the seating area. This is a hybrid modern/mythological world. In the manner of the modern Stone Age of “The Flintstones” or the contemporary fantasy world of Pixar’s “Onward.”

SYNOPSIS OF MUSICAL NUMBERS

SONG # 1 – INTRO / DINER LIFE
SONG # 2 – GREECE IS THE WORD
SONG # 3 – THE REASON FOR THE SEASONS
SONG # 4 – OUTSIDE
SONG # 5 – HADES’ RAP
SONG # 6 – THREE-HEADED DOG
SONG # 7 – COME ON OVER
SONG # 8 – WINTER COMES
SONG # 9 – THE REASON FOR THE SEASONS (reprise)
SONG # 10 – ECHO AND NARCISSUS
SONG # 11 – THE DRYAD SQUAD
SONG # 12 – THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING IN THE WORLD
SONG # 13 – HERA, OH HERA
SONG # 14 – HERA’S CURSE
SONG # 15 – THE MOST BEAUTIFUL (reprise)
SONG # 16 – ECHO AND NARCISSUS (reprise)
SONG # 17 – WEAVER OVERACHIEVER
SONG # 18 – ARACHNE
SONG # 19 – OLD WOMAN
SONG # 20 – THE CONTEST
SONG # 21 – WEAVER OVERACHIEVER (reprise)
SONG # 22 – ALL GREEK TO ME
SONG # 23 – CURTAIN CALL MUSIC

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SONG # 1 – INTRO / DINER LIFE

(AT RISE: MUSIC begins and the scene opens on the dimly lit interior of a Greek diner. CASSANDRA and PANDORA enter. Cassandra flips a light switch, and we see the whole diner. The two of them start their work of opening the restaurant.)

CASSANDRA:

FIRST TO ARRIVE, QUARTER TO FIVE IN THE MORNING.
WE HAVE TO GET THINGS READY FOR THE DAY.

PANDORA:

PLENTY TO DO FOR ME AND FOR YOU EVERY MORNING.
THIS IS HOW WE EARN OUR WEEKLY PAY.

CASSANDRA and PANDORA:

NOTHING COULD BE FINER THAN WORKING IN THE DINER.
WE MEET LOTS OF PEOPLE AND THE FOOD IS GREAT.
NOTHING COULD BE SWEETER THAN AN APRON AND EGG-
BEATER
AND DELICIOUS FOOD ON EVERY PLATE
THIS MAY NOT BE THE LIFE WE'RE DREAMING OF.
BUT IT'S DINER LIFE AND THAT'S THE LIFE I LOVE.

(The music continues with the pulse of an open chord. If using the accompaniment CD, fade out and prepare for the next cue. SPARKY GUY enters. He is a boisterous television personality and producer with crazy spiked hair.)

SPARKY: Hello, wonderful diner people!

PANDORA: I'm sorry, sir, we are not open yet.

SPARKY: Oh, I know. I'm Sparky Guy. I'm here to meet the owners.

CASSANDRA: Sparky Guy, you mean like that Diner Network person?

SPARKY: I am that Diner Network person, in the flesh, me dot com!

PANDORA: Wow! A TV celebrity!

SPARKY: We're doing a feature on this diner and I stopped by for some pre-production work. What do you two do here?

CASSANDRA: I'm Cassandra and I work in the kitchen.

PANDORA: I'm Pandora. I wait tables and stuff.

SPARKY: That's hoot-tastic! Where are the owners?

CASSANDRA: Zeus and Hera? They'll be here soon.

SPARKY: Zeus and Hera running a Greek diner. That's great! Are they anything like the real Zeus and Hera?

PANDORA: They *are* Zeus and Hera, sir. Stick around, you'll be surprised.

(ZEUS and HERA enter together. They are both very pleased to see Mr. Guy in their diner.)

ZEUS: Mr. Guy! Welcome to the Mount Olympus Diner!

SPARKY: Are you the owners?

SONG # 2 – GREECE IS THE WORD

(MUSIC begins. Members of the CHORUS start to enter a few at a time. Some as customers, some as diner workers. By the first line in the song, they have all entered.)

ZEUS: Yes, I'm Zeus!

HERA: I'm Hera, and we own this place. He cooks.

ZEUS: She waits tables. And the customers love our food.

HERA: That's not why they come here, dear.

ZEUS: What? I make the best souvlaki in the world.

SPARKY: I love a good souvlaki!

HERA: Our souvlaki is very nice. But people come here for the stories.

SPARKY: Stories?

ZEUS: Yes, the stories! But not just any stories.

HERA: The stories of our native land.

ZEUS and HERA: Greece!

CHORUS: GREECE!

End of Freeview

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