The Princess and the Moon: A Fairy Tale

By
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STORY OF THE PLAY

Once upon a time, in a kingdom far, far away, there lived a princess named Lizzy ...

Princess Lizzy wants to be a knight. Bored with the usual duties of a princess, she dreams of fighting in tournaments, slaying dragons, and doing all the things that good knights do. For what Princess Lizzy desires above all else is to be special – one-of-a-kind, absolutely unique! And so on her sixteenth birthday she becomes a knight ... and is crushed to learn that she is not the first, but actually the ninety-sixth. Still determined to be special, Lizzy resolves for her quest to do the impossible: to go to the moon. She soon finds the magical Medallion of the Moon and thinks herself well on her way, but when she fires the storyteller in a fit of anger, he steals the medallion, becomes an all-powerful wizard, and takes over Lizzy's kingdom as the new villain! What begins as an ordinary fairy tale takes Lizzy on a journey filled with danger and sacrifice where there is no promise of a "happily ever after." Running Time: About 70 minutes. Second place winner in the 2009 East Valley Children's Theatre's Aspiring Playwrights contest.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

The show was first performed by the Shade Tree Players in Bismarck, North Dakota, July 15-18, 2010. It was directed by Laura Rysavy with the following cast:

LIZZY: Lexi Hagler; HERALD: Taylor Crosby; HERBERT: Jake Voeller; KING: James Williams; QUEEN: Alexis Kohler; HARRIET: Hannah Emerson; MARGARET: Rachel Schumacher; CLARA: Clara Derby; ADELAIDE: Miyah Wheeler; NADIA: BreAnn Sullivan; LITTLE GIANT: Tara Wetch; WISE OLD WOMAN OF THE WELL: Emilie Voeller; SERVANT: Emily Aichele; GUARD 1: Bianca Mower; GUARD 2: Molly Emerson; TROLL CHIEF: Jack Sullivan; FIRST TROLL: Jacob Wilkinson; SECOND TROLL: Ryan Kohler; THIRD TROLL: Hallie Schweitzer; MANTICORE: Steven Davis; VOICE OF THE CREATURE: Lexi Folmer; MAN IN THE MOON: Katie Dewitt; LADY OF THE SUN: Allie Holland; PRINCESSES: Eleanor Berg; McKenzie Blasl; Ashlyn Sipes; TROLLS: Madison Blasl; Aiden Johnson; Kylie Ward; Lauren Wetch; PEASANTS: Leah Bandy; Grace Derby; Simon Johnson; Reilly Meyer; Hannah Ravnaas; Lindsey Schweitzer; Tyler Wilkinson.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(4 m, 9 f, 10 flexible, extras. Some doubling possible.)

LIZZY: (F) Naïve princess whose quest is to reach the moon.
HERALD: (M) Lizzy's herald who becomes the villainous Moon-Wizard.
HERBERT: (M) Lizzy's timid but loyal dragon squire.
KING: (M) Lizzy's father, clueless but kind.
QUEEN: (F) Lizzy's mother, prim and proper but easy to please.
HARRIET: (F) Haughty princess from the Kingdom of Eternal Sunshine.
MARGARET: (F) Harriet's feisty dragon squire.
CLARA: (F) An insufferably cheerful princess.
ADELAIDE: (F) Princess who never backs down from a fight.
NADIA: (F) Princess who sees every glass as half empty.
LITTLE GIANT: The runt of its litter.
WISE OLD WOMAN OF THE WELL: (F) Cranky, all-seeing soothsayer.
SERVANT: Pragmatic but spineless lackey.
GUARD 1: A guard who embraces his inner evil.
GUARD 2: A guard who tags along reluctantly.
TROLL CHIEF: Ferocious leader of the mountain trolls.
FIRST TROLL: Loyal guardian against intruders.
SECOND TROLL: A mountain of raw brute force.
THIRD TROLL: More thoughtful than the rest.
MANTICORE: A cowardly but kindhearted beast.
VOICE OF THE CREATURE: A monster too terrifying to behold. *(Voice only.)*
MAN IN THE MOON: (M) Weary and distrustful of humans.
LADY OF THE SUN: (F) Still sees promise in those like Lizzy.
EXTRAS: Servants, Princesses, and Trolls as desired.

SETTING

The sets in this play are intended to be representational and as simple as desired, using only a few minimal pieces combined with lighting to suggest the different locations, allowing for easy transitions. This is especially true of locations such as the Kingdom of Eternal Sunshine or the Mountain of a Thousand Deaths. A more permanent background suggesting a fairy tale atmosphere may help provide continuity throughout the play.

PROPS

Swords
Crowns
Piece of paper
Medallion of the Moon
Medallion of the Sun
Tray with plate of cookies and several glasses of milk
Sacks
Rope
Piece of lumber
Construction hat
Broom

SOUND EFFECTS

Forest noises
Earthquake
Large beast moving around *(optional)*
Trumpet charge
Winter wind
Deep, sustained rumble *(may use earthquake sound above)*
Loud crash

Scene 1

(AT RISE: A fairy tale palace. The HERALD is present.)

HERALD: Once upon a time, in a kingdom far, far away, there lived a princess named Elizabeth.
LIZZY: *(Entering.)* But everyone calls me Lizzy.
HERALD: She grew up doing the things that princesses do, such as playing music and sewing, but she always found these things rather dull, and so one day she decided...
LIZZY: Mama, Papa, I want to be a knight!
HERALD: For she was always jealous of the boys who were out fighting in tournaments and slaying dragons. So she learned how to use a sword...
LIZZY: ...And ride a horse...
HERALD: ...And one day even went to slay her very own dragon.
LIZZY: *(Anticipating the following line.)* It was a ferocious battle.
HERALD: And no one said anything when they learned it was less than six feet tall.
LIZZY: We fought for days and days...until he stubbed his toe and we had to stop.

(HERBERT the dragon enters, hopping on one foot in pain. He is a short and slightly dopey dragon.)

HERALD: For he was actually a very timid dragon which is why none of the other knights had bothered with him.
LIZZY: I call him Herbert.
HERALD: …Who was, frankly, an embarrassment to his species.
HERBERT: Princess Lizzy, I think I'm catching a cold. *(HE lets out a violent sneeze.)*
LIZZY: Bless you, Herbert. *(To the audience.)* He's really very sweet.
HERALD: But while Lizzy's dragon-slaying didn't go off as planned, she still had her heart set on being a knight.

HERALD: *(Cont'd.)* For you see, what she really wanted above all else was to be truly special.
LIZZY: One of a kind.
HERALD: Absolutely unique.
LIZZY: After all, any princess can play or sew. But I will be different. I will be the first girl ever to become a knight!

(The KING and QUEEN enter with the rest of the COURT.)

HERALD: And so on her sixteenth birthday, her father the king knighted her in front of the entire court.
KING: Princess Elizabeth Abigail Madeline Lenora—
LIZZY: Just Lizzy, Papa.
KING: Lizzy, in honor of your bravery in, well, catching dragons, I dub you Sir Lizzy, Knight of the Realm.

(With his sword he touches LIZZY once on each shoulder.)

CROWD: Hooray!
LIZZY: *(Stands and kisses the KING on the cheek.)* Thank you, Papa. *(SHE hugs the QUEEN.)* Thank you, Mama. I promise to be a very good knight.
QUEEN: I'm sure you will be, dear. Do have fun on your quest.

(The KING and QUEEN exit.)

HERALD: For it was customary that all new knights prove their worth by embarking upon a quest of some kind.
LIZZY: But first I shall need a squire. Now let's see...

(SHE surveys the CROWD, as well as the audience, while HERBERT jumps up and down behind her raising his hand.)

HERBERT: Ooh! Ooh! Pick me! Pick me!
LIZZY: Oh, of course I'll pick you, Herbert.

(The rest of the CROWD exits, disappointed.)

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