

The SeussOdyssey (one-act version)

(The set. The set can truly be anything. Brightly-colored, with islands here and there, perhaps a space for Odysseus' house. Everything should double as something else, and it ought to look like it came from an illustrated Dr. Seuss book. Swirly lines, bright colors. Be imaginative. The TWO NARRATORS enter. One holds an intimidating, thickly bound book, The Odyssey.)

NARRATOR 1

Welcome my friends to the show of all shows

NARRATOR 2

A story that mostly everyone knows—

NARRATOR 1

It's forced on us all at a bright early age

NARRATOR 2

Children condemned to read page after page

NARRATOR 1

I'm speaking of course of the great Od-is-see

NARRATOR 2

The tale of Odysseus, master of sea—

NARRATOR 1

His travels, his struggles,
his fantastical snuggles

NARRATOR 2

With nymphs and goddesses and non-magical muggles

NARRATOR 1

Stop it you dunce that's not the right story
This one is seventy-six times more gory

NARRATOR 2

Oh you're right, my bad—
It comes from all that bad schooling I've had

NARRATOR 1

You're not alone my friend and that's why we're here
To make this Odyssey story more clear
Because if you're like me you had a terrible time
Sludging through this in grade eight or grade nine

NARRATOR 2

I didn't read the whole thing, I have to confess
We had a teacher who was wasn't the best
We read two books I think, the ones in the middle
The rest of the time our thumbs we did twiddle
There was a movie in there with Armand Assante
I fell asleep, I drooled, I dreamed of a latte

NARRATOR 1

Well drooling is history, by goose and by Zeuss
Cause we're telling this epic in the style of Seuss

NARRATOR 2

And even better is the cheer in my heart of the hearts
We're going to leave out the dull boring parts

NARRATOR 1

So without further to do here's the Seuss-Od-I-see

NARRATOR 1

And then when we're done you can go back to T.V.

NARRATOR 1

So the story begins in a most unruly place

NARRATOR 2

Odysseus's estate in the mountains of Thrace

NARRATOR 1

Hey that's a lie it takes place in Ithaca

NARRATOR 2 (*breaking the rhythm*)

Why don't you try and find a rhyme for Ithaca you big jerk.

NARRATOR 1

Anyway. There at his home lived his marvelous wife
Whom Odysseus loved with all of his life.

(*PENELOPE enters*)

NARRATOR 2

Penelope Ann MacBuffy MacBay

PENELOPE

I am the queen of all I survey.

NARRATOR 1

But things were not good, they were awfully poor
Cause her husband had not come home from the war

NARRATOR 2

And she had a son, we'll call him young Telly
(TELLY enters, looking like a nerd)
Without a Dad he'd grown up all skinny and smelly
(TELLY sniffs his armpits.)

NARRATOR 1

And her husband's long absence was causing her fears
He'd been gone, after all, for twenty long years.

NARRATOR 2

And up to the house came a number of guys
Who weren't very smart and they weren't very wise
(THE SUITORS enter.)

SUITOR 1

Penelope Ann MacBuffy MacBay
Come out, come out, come wed me today

PENELOPE

I'm not coming out you ugly old toad
I'm still married you jerk, so hit the road

SUITOR 2

Peneople Ann MacBuffy MacBay
Marry me instead and with you'll I'll stay

PENELOPE

Are you deaf, are you dumb, perhaps you don't hear
I'm still married to my man, he's awfully dear

SUITOR 3

Penelope Ann MacBuffy MacBay
I love you so much I can't really say

PENELOPE

When my husband comes home he'll smash in your head
Get out of here fast if you don't you'll be dead

SUITOR1

Oh come on you're kidding, your husband's long gone

SUITOR 2

If he isn't dead then he's surely moved on

TELLY

Shut up you guys, you can't win her heart

My name is Telly, I know mixed martial arts

(TELLY attacks. They laugh, surround him, and give him a wedgie.)

SUITOR 1

What's this, a young pup defending the place?

SUITOR 2

Get out of here boy or we'll mess up your face

SUITOR 3

On second thought, I have an idea so fine

Go down to the cellar and bring us some wine

We're staying my lady until you make a choice

To make a husband of one of us here with your voice

NARRATOR 2

So they drank and they drank and they partied till dawn

They made a mess of the house with their partying on.

And the word went out far and farther than that.

That Odysseus' party was where it was at.

(Music plays. The SUITORS party. During the following speech, in SUITORS can appear, or they can remain off-stage. A director might choose to give some of the following lines to other actors.)

SUITOR 1

We welcome to the place a whole awesome host

A group of guys that you'll love the most

There's Billy the Bully of Billigan Bay

And Mortimer Andrew O'Gilligan Shea

There's Chippy the Snip, a wonderful dude

If you love burping and slurping and anything crude

(a horrific belch)

And Stubby and Grubby the stupendous twin clowns

With their big bigger biggest incredulous frowns

And Oogrek that mountainous son of a gun

He's eaten two cows and weighs nearly a ton

As you can see the greatest men in the land

Have all gathered here to ask for your hand

So I ask you again and we're all waiting to hear

Which of these men will become your sweet dear?

ALL SUITORS

Penelope Ann MacBuffy MacBay
Pick one of us here to marry today!

PENELOPE

All right, all right, I can see that you've won

TELLY (*underneath*)

Mom, no!

PENELOPE

But I'm weaving a shroud and I'll choose when I'm done

SUITOR 2

That's fine with us, we'll sit and we'll wait

SUITOR 3

And while we are waiting we'll throw a party so great

NARRATOR 2

So the men settled down, they drank and they drank
They drank until the hall quite literally stank

SUITOR 2

Oh man I have to go bad and I can't find the door

SUITOR 3

Don't worry my friend just use that section of floor
(*SUITOR 2 stumbles off.*)

NARRATOR 2

And the prince of the place, young Telly was sad
He sat down and cried and thought of his dad
(*TELLY sits and cries. The SUITORS laugh.*)

NARRATOR 3

But then who should appear in that mungiferous night?
The goddess Athena in her magnificent might
(*ATHENA enters.*)

TELLY

Oh my gosh it's you I knew it was true
I had a fairy godmother and her eyes are so blue
(*he swoons*)

ATHENA

Listen you twit they're not blue they are grey
Be quiet and nod and hear what I say
I am no fairy, A goddess instead
Years ago I sprang from my father's head

TELLY

That's weird—

ATHENA

I said to be silent, just sit there and nod
Because I have no patience even though I'm a god
I'm a friend to your father, we go all the way back
And he'll be here soon to lead the attack
For the moment don't die and just keep sitting tight
Odysseus will return to set this all right

NARRATOR 1

And she turned into a hawk without waiting for him
And flew off into the night where the stars were all dim
(Lights change. The two NARRATORS approach.)

NARRATOR 2

So the question remains from on low and on high

NARRATOR 1

Just whatever happened to that Odysseus guy?

(This play will be available very soon from www.playscripts.com Please email me at don@donzolidis.com for a larger sample or for performance information.)