

The SeussOdyssey

(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 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

No worries my bud, imagine this scene
You are a student with a teacher who's mean
(STUDENT and TEACHER enter)
And up on the board is a horribulus test
Of themes and concepts from this whole heaping mess

TEACHER

Your notes go away and so do your phones
You're taking this ginormous test on your own
I'll test you and test you and test you some more
By the end your tiny old brains will be sore
And then just when you think that your testing is done
I'll test you again, this time for fun.

STUDENT *(raising her hand)*

But teacher?

TEACHER

What?

STUDENT

I simply don't get it

TEACHER

Get what?

STUDENT

This whole book

TEACHER

That's really pathetic.
Too bad you ridiculous mungulous girl
I'm going to give your brain a whirl and a swirl
You're going to take this test on the whole Od-is-see.
And if you're lucky, I might give you a D.

STUDENT

A D?

TEACHER

Did I stutter?

(he turns away from her and leaves.)

STUDENT

My brain is a flutter—

I'm doomed, I'll be grounded by three

No Myspace, no phone, no Nintendo Wii

What will I do? I didn't read this whole book

I can't take this test, I'm sure on the hook.

(NARRATOR 1 bursts in.)

NARRATOR 1

No fear my dear girl we're here to explain

NARRATOR 2

This crazy old book without any more pain

NARRATOR 1

You'll ace this test and you'll do it with ease

STUDENT

Oh please do, Oh please please please please

NARRATOR 1

First off, think back to the books that you like—

STUDENT

I don't read, I'd rather watch movies or bike

NARRATOR 2

But there has to be something when you were a kid

STUDENT

I don't think so; mostly I hid

I do not like them, I hate these books

I hate their words and I hate their looks

I do not like them, oh wait, man

There's one I liked, Green Eggs and Ham.

NARRATOR 1

That's a great book, perfect for you

STUDENT

My reading stopped improving in grade number two

NARRATOR 2

Exactly, but here's what we'll do
We'll tell this whole story in a style right for you

NARRATOR 1

This is poetry right, it's just like Dr. Seuss—

STUDENT

But it just doesn't rhyme, so what is the use?

NARRATOR 2

We'll make it all rhyme and we'll tell it all right

NARRATOR 1

And we'll do it all here on this very night.

NARRATOR 2

So without further ado or further delay
Or further testing and retesting of concepts today
I'd like to invite you to our Grand Seuss-Od-I-see

NARRATOR 1

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

STUDENT

Great, cause The Office comes on at eight
I don't want to miss it

NARRATOR 2

And I've got a date

NARRATOR 1

You do? With who?

NARRATOR 2

No one you know. He's from Canada—

NARRATOR 1

You're a liar.

NARRATOR 2

Shut up.

STUDENT

Can we get on with it now?

NARRATOR 1

Right.

(she gathers herself as the lights change to ancient Greece.)

There once was a man in the oldest of days

Before novels, or poems or even old plays

NARRATOR 2

In fact if we date it I'd say that it's true

That this action occurred in the year eight twenty two

(HOMER enters, wearing a toga.)

NARRATOR 1

B.C. See?

NARRATOR 2

I see. I see.

But his name was Homer and he couldn't quite see

NARRATOR 1

He was blind as a bat, not like you or like me.

(HOMER bumps into something. He takes out dark sunglasses and a cane.)

NARRATOR 2

But he talked and he talked, boy could he talk

NARRATOR 1

And this day he walked till he sat on a rock

HOMER

Everyone here and everyone there,

I've got a story to tell that is really quite rare

Come on, come on, both female and male

And hear the impressive, fantabulous tale

Of Odysseus and friends lost on the sea

Sit down right here and you'll hear it from me.

(VILLAGERS come out. NARRATORS become VILLAGERS as well.)

VILLAGER

I've got nothing to do for an hour or so

VILLAGER #2

Let's listen to Homer, well what do you know?

(The villagers gather round)

HOMER

Way back in the year nine ninety three
And for kicks let's just call it B.C.

NARRATOR 1

So began Homer his story to tell

NARRATOR 2

And he told it and told it and told it quite well
You see because Homer had incredible powers
He kept tolding and tolding and tolding for hours

VILLAGER 1

I'm getting tired

VILLAGER 2

I'd like to go home

VILLAGER 3

My butt hurts

VILLAGER 4

And I've got a pain in my bones

VILLAGER 1

Hey there Homer perhaps you can't see

VILLAGER 2

But some of us here have places to be

VILLAGER 3

And to think of it now the sun there has set

VILLAGER 4

Please, oh please Homer, are you finished yet?
(HOMER stops and looks at the air.)

HOMER

Well now you've done it, it's done and it's done
I'll have to start over on page number one
Way back in the year nine ninety three
And for kicks let's just call it B.C.
(The VILLAGERS groan.)

NARRATOR 1

So on Homer went just telling his tell
He told it all day and all night as well
He told it all morning he told it past noon
He told it and told it and told it all June
He told it in rain he told it in snow
He told it until they all had to go

VILLAGER 1

If he keeps on tolding and tolding I just cannot hold

VILLAGER 2

My bladder is seriously about to explode!

VILLAGER 3

Remember he's blind within and without
We'll sneak away! He'll never figure it out

VILLAGER 4

Let's move away slowly and not make a peep
And home to our friends we surely will creep
(They slowly move away. HOMER continues to tell his story.)

NARRATOR 1

So they made it home but they felt awful bad

VILLAGER 1

That was a nasty mean trick on Granddad.

VILLAGER 2

You bleeding heart I'm not going back

VILLAGER 3

I won't listen one minute to that crazy old hack.

NARRATOR 1

But back he did go and he listened some more

HOMER

Here is the good part, I call it book four

VILLAGER 1

One question, Oh Homer, just how many more?

HOMER

Twenty I think, to make twenty-four.
(VILLAGER 1 slumps over.)

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

SUITOR 1

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)

Here comes Jerry the Snail with his lazy blue eye
He can't see a whole lot but he's a truly great guy
And Stubby and Grubby the stupendous twin clowns
With their big bigger biggest incredulous frowns
There's Sneevil the weevil the weasliest man
I'd lock up your jewelry as fast as you can
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!

(This play will be available very soon from www.playscripts.com. Email me at don@donzolidis.com for more information and rights.)