



Three One Act Plays
Summer '58

Ree 'n' Curtain

Peace of The Green Winds

Wayne Walters

Rhea POLITIS (Simms)

HELEN BITTLER (RALSTON)

PHOTO BY
ACE HOFFMAN STUDIOS
WILKES-BARRE, PA.



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150
Prince of the Green Woods - Summer 1958

Wayne Waller
Rhea Simms
Helen Tralston

PHOTO BY
ACE HOFFMAN
WILKES BARRE



Wilkes College
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

TO BE OUR GUEST . . .

at a summer theater program
of three original works

THE RECITERS
a three-act comedy
by Myvanwy Williams
August 20, 22, 25, 1958

PRINCE OF THE GREEN WINDS
a one-act opera
(a fairy tale)
Music by William Crowder
Libretto by Alfred S. Groh

ALL ABOUT ME
a dramatic interlude of childhood
with Miss Jerry Baird
August 21, 23, 26, 1958

Curtain at 8:40 Chase Theater
South River Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

PRINCE OF THE GREEN WINDS

AT CONCLUSION OF MARCH, ENTER THE THREE AMBASSADORS.
THEY HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM HAVING INTERVIEWED AND
SELECTED ELIGIBLES, ONE OF WHOM WILL BE CHOSEN AS
THE PRINCE'S BRIDE. THEY ARE POMPOUS, CONCEITED,
COMICAL. THEY ARE FOLLOWED BY MEMBERS OF THE PRINCE'S
COURT.

AMBASSADORS

We are the three ambassadors.

1st

Lords-a-waiting of the prince.

2nd

We have traveled in his name

3rd

Welcomed everyplace we came.

1st

We have traveled far and wide

2nd

Just to find the prince a bride.

CHORUS

Did you find the prince a girl?

3rd

Three have gifts of gold and pearl.

CHORUS

Will the prince be satisfied?

1st

We will let the prince decide.

AMBASSADORS INSPECT SCALE AND THRONE CHAIR TO SEE THAT
ALL IS READY.

CHORUS

What do you do
To pick a girl
Who has the gifts
Of gold and pearl?
How do you know
Her gift is true
Or the trust
She gives to you?
What do you say
When there are more
Of the girls
You're looking for?

1st
I treat them well
And always tell
The same thing to all.
When I was young
I heard it sung
The same thing to all.

CHORUS
If you fall

1st
Ah, I'm prepared

CHORUS
You'll be snared

2nd
Ah, I'm not scared

1st & 2nd
So many trade
Onyx for jade
The market is wide.
You must confess
That foolishness
Is all on our side.

CHORUS
You'll be caught

2nd
Oh, look around

CHORUS
You'll be found

3rd
Not a sound

AMBASSADORS
A young girl makes
The same mistakes
We've nothing to fear.
So many love
The habit of
The same thing each year.

1st
They'll tell one another how it was done

2nd
Believing they're the only one

3rd
You'll never see such riotous fun

AMBASSADORS
The same thing to all
The same thing to all.

CHORUS
Are you sure it's true?

3rd
Would we lie to you?

2nd
No ill effect

1st
Correct.

CHORUS
Just treat them well
And always tell

AMBASSADORS
The same thing to all
The same thing to all.

CHORUS
You will lose

3rd
There are fools

CHORUS
There are rules

2nd
They are tools

AMBASSADORS
To keep us wise
And tell them lies
The same thing to you.
For we've been wise
And told them lies
The same thing to you.

AMBASSADORS AND CHORUS EXIT AS THE GIRL AND THE
FORTUNE TELLER ENTER.

FORTUNE TELLER

As fortune teller to the prince
I've a reputation for the truth.
As fortune teller to the prince
I've a reputation for the truth.

GIRL

The ambassadors returned today.

FORTUNE TELLER

What do you want to know?

GIRL

They've searched and found and brought the girl--

FORTUNE TELLER

The prince himself must choose.

GIRL

Why didn't they ask me?

FORTUNE TELLER

Perhaps you didn't have the gifts that they were
looking for.

GIRL

They have searched and found three girls
And they possess gifts of gold and pearls--
If they're the gifts the prince is looking for,
What could I bring? I've no gold.

FORTUNE TELLER

Is that what you were told?

GIRL

They told me that is the custom.

FORTUNE TELLER

What else did they say?

GIRL

That I must obey.

FORTUNE TELLER

But it's the prince who must decide.

GIRL

One of them will be his bride.

FORTUNE TELLER

But it must be the right gift.

GIRL

They have many in abundance.

FORTUNE TELLER

Why won't you listen?

Because I'm a fortune teller, do you want a sign?

Shall I weave a spell? Change my shape?

Be more grotesque? Be what I'm not?

GIRL

They have so much--What can I bring?

I've no dower~~y~~ of gold and pearl.

You'll see--

FORTUNE TELLER

The prince must choose.

GIRL

....Not me.

THE GIRL STARTS TO LEAVE. AS THE PRINCE ENTERS,
SHE LOOKS AT HIM EXPECTANTLY. SILENTLY HE CROSSES
TO THE THRONE CHAIR.

PRINCE

Do you know the sudden pain

That a man cannot explain

When he knows he does not know

What he thought was surely so?

FORTUNE TELLER

You don't know the anguish that a woman feels

When the wind blows fierce against the sky.

You don't know what the heart conceals

When the winds blow black and day is night.

Then a woman weeps like a little girl

For the lost green winds in a sky of pearl.

Love will come to you to stay

When the green winds blow the dark away.

You don't know the anguish that a woman feels

When the wind blows fierce against the sky.

You don't know what the heart conceals.

PRINCE

So let it be.

It's easy for you to talk.

FORTUNE TELLER

You haven't seen the world as I have.

FORTUNE TELLER

But it must be the right gift.

GIRL

They have many in abundance.

FORTUNE TELLER

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Because I'm a fortune teller, do you want a sign?

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PRINCE

So let it be.

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FORTUNE TELLER

You haven't seen the world as I have.

PRINCE

The world you see is a world of dreams.
It isn't what it seems.
Life is not a happy place.

GIRL

I can see it in your face.

PRINCE

Life can be hard.

FORTUNE TELLER

Men can be unkind.

PRINCE

But they get things done.

GIRL

Is that what you find?

FORTUNE TELLER

They're the men you're kind to.

PRINCE

They can get things done if they've a mind to.

FORTUNE TELLER

Their appearance does not reveal
The cunning that their hearts conceal.
How far do you trust your ambassadors?

PRINCE

Tell me--is there something I should know?

FORTUNE TELLER

Don't believe a thing because they say it's so.

PRINCE

Do you know the sudden pain
That a man cannot explain
When he knows he does not know
What he thought was surely so?
Do you know about the pain
That lodges deep inside his brain
When he knows he does not know
What he thought was surely so?

GIRL

If I could, I'd tell him so.
All the things he does not know.

PRINCE

The world you see is a world of dreams.
It isn't what it seems.
Life is not a happy place.

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That a man cannot explain
When he knows he does not know
What he thought was surely so?
Do you know about the pain
That lodges deep inside his brain
When he knows he does not know
What he thought was surely so?

GIRL

If I could, I'd tell him so.
All the things he does not know.

FORTUNE TELLER

If he didn't think so much.

PRINCE

Responsibility is such--
What should the girl he wants possess?

GIRL

Would he take a little less?

CHORUS OF GREEN WINDS

Gifts of pearl
Gifts of gold
For such as these
Hearts grow old.

PRINCE

What are the gifts a girl should bring?

GIRL

Would he take two birds that sing?

CHORUS OF GREEN WINDS

Writ on sand
Carved on stone
Pain is always
Flesh and bone.

PRINCE

How can he know when love is true?

FORTUNE TELLER

When she gives her heart to you. (SHE RETIRES BACK)

CHORUS OF GREEN WINDS

Gifts of gold
Gifts of pearl
Foolish when you
Love the girl.

CHORUS

Gifts of pearl
Gifts of gold
For such as these
Hearts grow old.
Writ on sand
Carved on stone
Pain is always
Flesh and bone.
Gifts of gold
Gifts of pearl
Foolish when you
Love the girl.

GIRL

I'd give no gifts of pearl
No gifts of gold...

Sea shells, two birds that sing
The only gifts I'd bring.

(SHE RETIRES UP BACK)

ENTER CEREMONIOUSLY THE THREE AMBASSADORS.

AMBASSADORS

We are the three ambassadors.

1st

Lords-a-waiting of the prince.

PRINCE

(ACKNOWLEDGES THEM) Gentlemen--

1st

Your highness.

PRINCE

Gentlemen, you've returned. Gentlemen.

2nd

Your highness.

PRINCE

Your mission is fulfilled?

AMBASSADORS

Your highness.

3rd

Custom dictates that we do everything in our power
to serve you well.

Loyally we've carried out
The mission that we were about,
Faithful in our services to you.

PRINCE

Our humble thanks.

1st

We have traveled in your name

2nd

Welcomed everywhere we came.

PRINCE

Have you found the prince a girl?

3rd

Three have gifts of gold and pearl.

PRINCE

Will the prince be satisfied?

1st

That your highness will decide.

FORTUNE TELLER

You may conceal a moment or a lifetime:
Look over your shoulder--
The truth is always there.

PRINCE

Why must tradition bind a man?

GIRL

It is we who make it so.

PRINCE

It sits on its throne
In regal robe
Measuring custom
Around the globe.
See where it stands
Measuring me--
I can't defy *who can deny*
Its stern decree.

GIRL

Then I mustn't love you.
If it says to leave you, I will go.
I'll obey its word, and so must you.
(SHE GOES TO HIM)
Shall I go away--far away--
Tell me what to do.
I'll obey its word, and so must you.

PRINCE

We can't change a stern decree.

GIRL

Must it bind eternally?

PRINCE

And the law says without fail
Weigh the gifts upon the scale.
If it said to love you--

GIRL

I would stay.

PRINCE

But it says to leave you--

GIRL

I'll obey.
From your heart take my love.
From your eyes take my face.
From your lips take my vow.
Let me go.
From your heart take my love.
From your eyes take my face.
From your lips take my vow.
Let me go.
As a gift it is small,
It cannot compare at all.
With the gifts the others bear,
Dearest, it cannot compare.
I have no gifts of precious stone:
The gift of love is all I own.
From your heart take my love.
From your eyes take my face.
From your lips take my vow.
Let me go.

FORTUNE TELLER

(TO THE AMBASSADORS)
Is it your custom to deceive?

1st

(AGREEABLY)
People believe what they want to believe.
People believe what they want to believe.

FORTUNE TELLER

Is that what you practice?
Is that what you believe?

3rd

We perform our duty, we don't question it.

PRINCE

Custom bids us welcome your return.
In our loves you occupy a place of trust,
By virtue of the duties you perform for us.

1st

Your highness, it's a privilege we earn.

PRINCE

Our humble thanks.

2nd - 3rd

We serve you well
So we can tell
The same thing to you
The same thing to you.

FORTUNE TELLER

You fill a girl's heart with crafty dreams.

1st

That it always how it seems.
You don't frighten us.

2nd

Is she a sorcoress?

1st

No.

3rd

You don't frighten us.

2nd

Has she any powers?

1st

I don't think so.

3rd

That it always how it seems.

GIRL

The prince is not to blame.
If anyone is guilty, it is I.

PRINCE

Life is not a happy place.

GIRL

I can see it in your face.

FORTUNE TELLER

Do you still trust your ambassadors?

PRINCE

I must follow custom.

FORTUNE TELLER

Is that the custom?

1st

It is custom we uphold.

GIRL

Suddenly the answer came:
If anyone I am to blame.

PRINCE

Life is not a happy place.

GIRL

I can see it in your face.

2nd

Is she a sorcoress?

1st

No.

3rd

Has she any powers?

1st

She doesn't think so.

FORTUNE TELLER

You take a girl old enough to dream,
Old enough to dream the truth,
And you tell her love's a prize,
That it comes with crafty eyes.
How can she know the dream's not true,
If she gives her heart to you?

GIRL

When people believe what they want to believe,
It is only themselves that they deceive.
(TO THE PRINCE)

What I have done, I regret.

But the things you said I'll not forget.

CHORUS

Something is pounding in his head.
Something the fortune teller said.
Something is pounding in his brain.
Something there is he can't explain.

PRINCE

(TURNS AWAY SADLY)

Let the ceremony start.

(HE SITS ON THE THRONE CHAIR, BACK)

1st

Let us go and make ready.
Everyone must do his part.
AMBASSADORS EXIT.

FORTUNE TELLER

You take a girl old enough to dream,
And you despoil the dream.

GIRL

(HOLDING SEA SHELL IN HER HAND)
Poor, pitied, and pampered thing--
Daughter of wind and sea,
Now you belong to only me.
Child of wind, O child of sea
We will search for the place that fathered me.
Long the journey I must take
And a lonely one I make.
Dark the way where I must go
Before I reach the place I know.
(HOLDING SEA SHELL UP TO HER EAR)
Silent still? And yet I hear
The murmur of wind in my ear.
Silent still--and yet to me
It is the sea.

DANCERS ENTER AND PERFORM BEFORE THE PRINCE. WHEN THEY
FINISH, ENTER THE THREE AMBASSADORS SPLENDIDLY DRESSED.

CHORUS

(TO THE PRINCE)
What do you do
To choose a girl
Who has gifts
Of gold and pearl?

How do you know
To treat them well
Do they weave
A magic spell?

How do you know
Their gift is true
Or the trust
They give to you?

1st AMBASSADOR

(BOWING)
Your highness.

2nd

Your highness, all is ready.

THE PRINCE, MINDFUL OF HIS DUTY AND OF HIS LOVE, ADDRESSES
THE GIRL.

PRINCE

So much you ask of me, I can't fulfill--
Just to live correctly takes a special skill.
Here am I sentenced to be
Governed by a stern decree,
Governed by the rules of state
Not even a prince can violate.
It is not easy to be free,
When you ask so much of me.
Why, since time began,
Must the life of every man
Be measured by a stern decree?
Why is it a problem to be free?
Why does the thought give me no rest--
A terrifying ease, at best--
Is the sum of what he does
Proof of everything he was?
Take away, bit by bit,
From the total sum of it
And what remains is not the same,
And goes as quickly as it came.
Troubled when he has to choose
What to keep, what to lose.
It is not easy to be free,
When you ask so much of me.
(TO THE AMBASSADORS)
Bid them enter. (THE PRINCE SITS)

ENTER THE THREE ELIGIBLES, GORGEOUSLY COSTUMED. THE FIRST
CARRIES A WHITE PEARL JEWELLED BAG; THE SECOND A GOLD BALL
ON A RED VELVET PILLOW; THE THIRD A JEWELLED BOX. EACH OF
THE AMBASSADORS IN TURN PRESENTS ONE OF THE THREE ELIGIBLES
TO THE PRINCE, THEN THEY PARADE PAST THE THRONE CHAIR, AND
EACH PLACES HER GIFT IN THE SCALE. EACH TIME THE BOWL
MOVES EVER SO SLIGHTLY.

1st AMBASSADOR

(BOWING) Your highness.
Don't touch her. Take her.
These her gifts will make you proud.
She possesses what every girl's been taught to cherish
From the day she speaks aloud.

2nd AMBASSADOR

Your highness.
Don't cheer her. Choose her.
These her gifts will make you glad.
She possesses what every girl's been taught to wish for
That she hoped no others had.

3rd AMBASSADOR

Your highness.
Don't praise her. Pick her.
These her gifts will make you strong.
She possesses what every girl's been taught to barter
When the right man comes along.

CHORUS

Choose. Choose.
Choose the girl
Who has the gifts
Of gold and pearl.

PRINCE

Tradition is a stately word
Respected everyplace it's heard.

GIRL

In my heart is your dream.
In my eyes is your face.
On my lips is your vow
I'll obey.

SHE TURNS TO GO, BUT IS HELD BY THE FORTUNE TELLER'S COMMAND.

CHORUS

Choose. Choose.
Choose the girl
Who has the gifts
Of gold and pearl.

FORTUNE TELLER

Wait! She must not go.
They hide from you the truth
That you should know.
Here is a maid young and fair
And her heart is weeping there
Thinking still--O foolish girl--
That dreams are made of gold and pearl.
Here is a maid young and fair
And her dream is waiting there
Thinking still--O foolish girl
That dreams are made of gold and pearl.
Here is a maid young and fair
And her love is standing there
Thinking still--O foolish girl
That dreams are made of gold and pearl.

Try they will from day to day
Try they will to take away,
Cherished deep inside of you
Values that you know are true.
Try they will from day to day
Try they will to take away
All the dreams that make you free,
They stand before you fearfully.
When a dream is right,
It will be.
With a dream that's right (true)
You are free.
No secret spell will reveal it
And no deceit can conceal it.
O child of wind, O child of sea,
Your dream is right,
Your gift is true:
That is the truth
They hide from you.
They have deceived the girl:
Gifts need not be gold and pearl!

the dreams you know are true

SHE PLACES THE SEA SHELL IN THE BOWL AND THE SCALE SLOWLY
DROPS. THERE IS AN AUDIBLE SOUND FROM THE CHORUS.

On that day your love will come
None can say where it's from.
On that day the green winds blow
None can say how you know.

THE PRINCE CROSSES TO THE SCALE, BRINGS THE SEA SHELL TO
THE GIRL, WHO COMES TO MEET HIM.

CHORUS OF GREEN WINDS

Gifts of pearl
Gifts of gold
For such as these
Hearts grow old.
Writ on sand
Carved on stone
Pain is always
Flesh and bone.
Gifts of gold
Gifts of pearl
Foolish when you
Love the girl.

FORTUNE TELLER

On that day
Your love will come
None can say
Where it's from.
On that day
The green winds blow
None can say--
(1st) But you'll know.

THE CURTAIN FALLS