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Dramatic Publishing

Based on the book by the Brothers Grimm

The Twelve Dancing Princesses



Book and lyrics by Jennifer Kirkeby

Music by Shirley Mier

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The Twelve Dancing Princesses

Musical.
Book and lyrics by
Jennifer Kirkeby.
Music by Shirley Mier.
Based on the book by the
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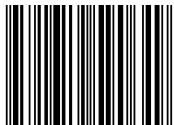
Cast: 4m., 19w., 3 either gender,
extras as needed. Doubling possible.

Enter the magical world of 12 princesses who love to dance. Each night, they sing the song that allows them secret passage into an enchanted forest where music plays and their mother's spirit watches over them. Their father, the king, is perplexed, but the princesses must dance. Then one day, the king (tired of finding twelve pairs of worn shoes each morning) issues a proclamation. The first person to discover where the princesses go each night shall receive his or her heart's desire and eight bags of gold! The Prince of Arrogance and Matthew the commoner come to visit, and when the Spirit Mother gives Matthew an invisibility cloak, events begin to change. With exquisite music and minimal set, this fresh retelling of *The Twelve Dancing Princesses* is sure to entertain audiences of all ages. *Minimal unit set, flexible staging. Approximate running time: 65 minutes. Code: TV2.*



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JENNIFER KIRKEBY

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Book and lyrics by JENNIFER KIRKEBY

Music by SHIRLEY MIER

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(THE TWELVE DANCING PRINCESSES)

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“Originally commissioned and produced by Stages Theatre Company, Artistic
Director Sandy Boren-Barrett, Hopkins, Minn.”

“Trumpet cues performed by Adam Meckler and recorded by Stages Theatre
Company, Hopkins, Minn.”

The Twelve Dancing Princesses was commissioned and first produced by Stages Theatre Company, Hopkins, Minn., March 6, 2015. It premiered with the following artists:

Handmaiden	KALLIE JO ASCHEMAN
Princess Anya.....	HALLE AUDETTE
Guard.....	EVIE BAIR
Princess Scarlet	SARA BOWMAN
Matthew	LOGAN BITZ DAUM
Prince of Arrogance	THEODORE EMO
Princess Suzanna.....	LILIANA FELTON
Handmaiden	WILLOW FIELDS
Spirit Mother.....	ANNA HICKEY
Princess Louisa	EMMA HIGHFIELD
Princess Annabella	CLARE JUDGE
Princess Rosalina	ALLISON KIEWATT
Princess Hazel.....	BELLA LOCKHART
Royal Shoemaker	GEORGE MULDER
Princess Celestia	DELANEY MURRAY
Handmaiden	HANNAH PAULSEN
Princess Genevieve	ABBY SCHROEDER
Guard / Townsperson	GRANT SCHUMANN
Herald.....	DEVON SELMON
Handmaiden / Townsperson.....	ELIZABETH SLUKA
Handmaiden	ANNA STENERSON
Princess Zelda	JOZIE TAMARKIN
Princess Violetta.....	ZOE TAMARKIN
King Phillip.....	BRENT TECLAW
Handmaiden	JOSIE TURK
Princess Giselle.....	MARIN WILTS

PRODUCTION TEAM:

Artistic Directors:

Stages Theatre Company SANDY BOREN-BARRETT
Escalate Dance Studio..... ANN MARIE OMEISH
Choreographers SHANNON BUTTERFIELD RAINES
ANNA ESPOSITO
ANNA HICKEY
KATIE SCHLOSSER

Music Director SARAH HOHENSTEIN BURK
Technical Director JIM HIBBELER
Costume & Make-up Designer LISA JONES
Lighting Designer MIKE KITTEL
Composer & Music Sequencing SHIRLEY MIER
Props Designer ABBEE WARMBOE
Set Designer HOLLY WINDINGSTAD
Trumpet ADAM MECKLER
Stage Manager EMILIA ALLEN
Assistant Stage Manager AMANDA GEHRKE
Sound Board Operator DAVID GAMACHE
Light Board Operator KOLTON ASCHEMAN

PRODUCTION SUPPORT:

Scenic Artist CINDE ASHLEY
Lighting Crew JEFF NEPPL
Scenic Carpenter TONY ZAKARIASEN
Shop Volunteers JEFF AUNE, ERIK ECKBLAD,
TERRY STEWART, MARIANN WOLF
First Job in the Arts Support THEODORE EMO

The Twelve Dancing Princesses

CHARACTERS

DANCING PRINCESSES (w, good dancers):

ANNABELLA: Tells it like it is. Loud talker.

ANYA: Sees the good in everything and everyone.

CELESTIA: Loves being a princess and expects to be treated like one. Likes PRINCE OF ARROGANCE.

GENEVIEVE: Strong and independent.

GISELLE: Older. Senses things others do not. She and MATTHEW instantly like each other.

HAZEL: Youngest. Wise beyond her years.

LOUISA: Free spirit. Does a little dance move (like a twirl) when excited.

ROSALINA: Daydreams a lot. She discovers that she likes the HERALD.

SCARLET: Great sense of humor. She might snort when she laughs.

SUZANNA: Kind and thoughtful. Always wants to help.

VIOLETTA: Oldest. Feels responsible for her sisters.

ZELDA: Laughs a lot. She and SCARLET are close.

SPIRIT MOTHER (w): Spirit of the PRINCESSES' MOTHER. She watches over her daughters.

KING PHILLIP (m): Father of the PRINCESSES. He worries about where his daughters go each night and why their shoes are worn each morning. He has forbidden them to dance in front of him ever since his wife (who loved to dance) passed away because the memory is too painful for him.

HANDMAIDENS (w): Excellent singers for the vocal chorus. Double as SHOEMAKER's APPRENTICES and TOWNSPEOPLE. May add more if desired.

ROYAL GUARDS #1 and #2 (m or w): Written for 2 actors who finish each other's sentences. They bumble about and tend to run into each other.

HERALD (m): Travels with the ROYAL GUARDS. Loves to play his horn to announce anything possible. Unfortunately, he is a terrible player. He practices each morning and gets better throughout the show. Plays a killer solo at the end. (Music is recorded.) He likes ROSALINA.

SHOEMAKER (m or w): Nervous person responsible for repairing the PRINCESSES' shoes each morning.

PRINCE OF ARROGANCE / TOWNSPERSON (m): A conceited prince from the town of Arrogance (Pronounced AIR-AH-GAHNZ), who comes to the palace in order to gain riches and power.

MATTHEW (m): Excellent singer. It would be great if he plays the guitar or lute, but not essential. A commoner who comes to the palace to try and solve the shoe mystery. He and GISELLE like each other instantly.

SETTING

The stage should be as open as possible for dancing.

SECRET PORTAL: We used a revolving unit UC. On one side, it was the interior of the palace. The other side was the magical doors that opened into the enchanted forest.

COSTUME NOTES: We chose to have the princesses dressed in different costumes to show their individuality. The invisibility cloak needs to be large enough for two actors to drape around themselves and sheer and adaptable enough for MATTHEW to wear while dancing.

SCENES

SCENE 1: Magical forest at night. SPIRIT MOTHER enters and dances. The PRINCESSES sneak out through the magic portal and dance.

SCENE 2: Next morning at the palace. HERALD plays morning fanfare. KING enters after having discovered the PRINCESSES' worn shoes outside their room. He calls in the SHOEMAKER and asks for shoes to be repaired.

SCENE 3: Same morning in the palace courtyard. KING sings. SPIRIT MOTHER joins him, then suggests he issue a proclamation. KING invites young men to help solve the puzzle of where the PRINCESSES go each night.

SCENE 4: Next morning outside the palace. HERALD plays morning fanfare. PRINCE OF ARROGANCE comes to palace to try to make his fortune. He meets SPIRIT MOTHER along the way. She asks him three questions. That night, the PRINCESSES sneak out to the forest again.

SCENE 5: Next morning outside the palace. MATTHEW travels to the palace to try and solve the shoe problem. He meets SPIRIT MOTHER on his way. She asks him three questions. He sings for her. She gives him an invisibility cloak and tells him not to drink the tea the PRINCESSES offer him.

SCENE 6: Later that day outside the palace. MATTHEW arrives at the castle. GISELLE likes him instantly. Her sisters explain that he's just a commoner.

SCENE 7: Later that night. MATTHEW follows the PRINCESSES into the forest wearing his invisibility cloak. He watches them dance. He dances with GISELLE while wearing the cloak.

SCENE 8: Next morning outside the palace. HERALD plays morning fanfare. The PRINCESSES' shoes are worn. KING asks MATTHEW if he had any luck solving the shoe problem. MATTHEW tells him yes, but that he needs another night to be sure. KING reluctantly grants his request. MATTHEW and GISELLE get to know each other.

SCENE 9: Later that night. MATTHEW and KING follow the PRINCESSES to the forest. KING is hurt and angry to see his daughters dancing. HAZEL reasons with KING, and he finally understands how important dance is to his girls. KING issues a new proclamation, and everyone is happy.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

1. When We Dance.....	13
Spirit Mother, Princesses	
2. Return to the Castle #1.....	17
Instrumental	
3. Herald Trumpet Cue #1.....	17
Morning fanfare; terrible	
4. Herald Trumpet Cue #2.....	18
Horn blat; startling	
5. Shoemaker Song	20
Shoemaker, Apprentices	
6. Shoemaker Song (Playoff).....	23
Shoemaker	
7. Where Do They Go?	25
King, Spirit Mother	
8. Herald Trumpet Cue #3.....	27
Horn blat	
9. The Proclamation	27
King, Townspeople, Princesses	

10. The Proclamation (Playoff).....	31
Instrumental	
11. Herald Trumpet Cue #4.....	32
Morning fanfare; slightly better	
12. Herald Trumpet Cue #5.....	33
Horn blat	
13. Prince of Arrogance	36
Prince of Arrogance, Townspeople	
14. Prince of Arrogance (Playoff #1).....	40
Instrumental	
15. Tea Music #1	40
Instrumental	
16. Secret Portal #1	41
Princesses, Spirit Mother	
17. Pavane	42
Instrumental	
18. Return to the Castle #2.....	42
Instrumental	
19. Herald Trumpet Cue #6.....	42
Morning fanfare; even better	
20. Matthew’s Entrance	43
Instrumental	
21. Heart’s Desire.....	43
Matthew	
22. Prince of Arrogance (Playoff #2).....	47
Instrumental	
23. Herald Trumpet Cue #7.....	48
Horn blat	
24. He Is Just a Commoner	51
Princesses	
25. He Is Just a Commoner (Playoff).....	53
Instrumental	

26. Tea Music #2.....	53
Instrumental	
27. Secret Portal #2.....	55
Princesses, Spirit Mother	
28. Galliard.....	56
Instrumental	
29. Return to the Castle #3.....	57
Instrumental	
30. Herald Trumpet Cue #8.....	57
Morning fanfare; much improved	
31. Shoemaker Song (Reprise).....	58
Shoemaker, Apprentices	
32. Matthew and Giselle (Underscore).....	61
Instrumental	
33. Heart’s Desire (Reprise).....	62
Matthew, Giselle	
34. Herald Trumpet Cue #9.....	63
Horn blat	
35. Secret Portal #3.....	63
Princesses, Spirit Mother	
36. Saltarello.....	66
Instrumental	
37. Where Do They Go (Reprise).....	67
King, Spirit Mother	
38. Herald Trumpet Cue #10.....	69
Amazing Maynard Ferguson riff	
39. When We Dance (Finale).....	70
Company	
40. The Proclamation (Curtain Call).....	71
Company	

The Twelve Dancing Princesses

SCENE 1

AT RISE: *Lights up on a stunning forest at night. Some trees have silver leaves, some gold, and others might be jeweled. SPIRIT MOTHER enters. She dances and sings following song.*

(#1: “When We Dance”)

SPIRIT MOTHER.

DAY HAS GONE IN SULTRY SPLENDOR, NIGHT
UNFOLDS ITS WINGS.

'TIS THE HOUR FOR ENCHANTMENT AND
IMAGININGS.

SECRET PORTAL OPEN UP AND LET THEM PASS
YOUR WAY.

THE FOREST WAITS FOR THEM TO DANCE UNTIL
THE BREAK OF DAY.

SUCH BEAUTY, SUCH WONDER IN ALL THAT I SEE,
MY SPIRIT IS FILLED WITH DELIGHT.

THIS FOREST IS MAGIC WITH SECRETS UNTOLD,
JUST ONE THING IS MISSING TONIGHT.

MY DAUGHTERS, SUCH BLESSINGS, THEY'RE ALL
THAT I LOVE,

I MISS THEM MORE THAN I CAN SAY.
I COME TO THIS FOREST SO I CAN BEHOLD,
MY PRINCESSES' NIGHTLY BALLET.

WHEN THEY DANCE, THEY CAN FLY,
NO LONGER DO I FEEL ALONE.

SPIRIT MOTHER (*cont'd*).

WHEN THEY DANCE, JOY IS HERE.
AND I KNOW THAT I'M FINALLY HOME.

WHEN THEY DANCE, THEY ARE FREE,
THEY CAN LEAP TO THE HEAVENS ABOVE,
WHEN THEY DANCE, I'M ALIVE,
AND COMPLETE WITH THE SPIRIT OF LOVE.

(PRINCESSES enter. They dance while SPIRIT MOTHER watches.)

PRINCESSES.

BEING A PRINCESS IS MANY GIRLS' DREAM,
TO LIVE IN A CASTLE SO GRAND.
OUR DRESSES AND JEWELRY ARE DAZZLING AND
BRIGHT,
EACH HOUR IS CAREFULLY PLANNED.
WE ARE STILTED AND STIFLED, CAN'T BREATHE IN
THIS PLACE,
BEING ROYAL ISN'T ALL YOU MIGHT THINK.
"STAND UP STRAIGHT!" "SPEAK CLEARLY" "PLEASE
CURTSY, MY DEAR!"
IT'S PUSHING US RIGHT TO THE BRINK!

(Instrumental section where all dance.)

PRINCESSES (*cont'd*).

WHEN WE DANCE, WE CAN FLY,
NO LONGER DO WE FEEL ALONE.
WHEN WE DANCE, JOY IS HERE.
AND WE KNOW THAT WE'RE FINALLY HOME.
WHEN WE DANCE, WE ARE FREE,
WE CAN LEAP TO THE HEAVENS ABOVE,

(PRINCESSES split into two groups.)

PRINCESS GROUP 1.

WHEN WE DANCE, WE'RE ALIVE,
AND COMPLETE WITH THE SPIRIT OF LOVE.

SPIRIT MOTHER & PRINCESS GROUP 2.

WHEN THEY/WE DANCE, I'M/WE'RE ALIVE
AND COMPLETE WITH THE SPIRIT OF LOVE.

(SPIRIT MOTHER does sweeping arm gesture. Chimes SFX.)

GISELLE. Shh. Sisters, did you hear that?

(They stop and listen for a moment. Nothing.)

GENEVIEVE. You're always hearing things, Giselle.

VIOLETTA. It was probably just the silver leaves blowing in
the night wind.

LOUISA. Such a lovely sound! *(She twirls.)*

SUZANNA. Do you think Mother used to listen to it?

CELESTIA. Of course she did. After all, this forest was her
favorite place to dance.

SCARLET. I miss her so much.

ZELDA. We all do, Scarlet.

HAZEL. But you are all so lucky because you can remember
much more about her than I can.

ROSALINA. You were just a baby when she ...

HAZEL. Died?

ROSALINA. Well ... yes.

(SPIRIT MOTHER does sweeping arm gesture. Chimes SFX.)

GISELLE. Did you hear it that time?

ANNABELLA *(loudly)*. I did! It sounded like the gold leaves.

PRINCESSES (*staggered*). Me too! / I heard it! / So enchanting! / Right over there! / Lovely! (*Etc.*)

ANYA . Shhh! Listen!

(*SPIRIT MOTHER does sweeping arm gesture. Chimes SFX.*)

LOUISA (*twirls*). So beautiful! (*Beat.*) But why won't Father allow us to dance?

VIOLETTA. Because ever since Mother died, it saddens him to see us dance. It makes him miss her even more.

GENEVIEVE. Which is why we have to sneak out at night to dance in the forest.

LOUISA. That's right, Genevieve.

ANNABELLA (*loudly*). But the staff and townspeople are allowed to dance!

PRINCESSES. Shhh! / Not so loud! / Annabella! / Quiet! (*Etc.*)

ZELDA. That's different. They're not the king's daughters.

ANNABELLA (*loudly*). Well, I think ...

PRINCESSES. Shhh!

ANNABELLA (*softer*). I think it's ridiculous. He should be happy to be reminded of Mother!

(*PRINCESSES agree.*)

VIOLETTA. We must respect his wishes.

GENEVIEVE. That's all we ever do.

(*SPIRIT MOTHER does sweeping arm gesture. Chimes SFX.*)

HAZEL. I feel so close to her here.

SCARLET. Me too, Hazel.

ZELDA. Perhaps we are.

(They all pause.)

VIOLETTA. Come on, sisters. It's time to go back to the castle before someone discovers our secret!

(All except GISELLE begin to exit. She senses her mother; but doesn't actually see her. SPIRIT MOTHER smiles at her. GISELLE looks in SPIRIT MOTHER's direction.)

ROSALINA *(nervously)*. Giselle! Please ... come along!

GISELLE. Coming!

(They run offstage.)