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Dramatic Publishing



No One Will Marry a Princess With a Tree Growing Out of Her Head!

**Book and lyrics by
Michael Elliot Brill**

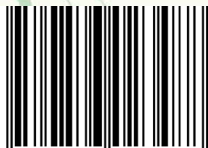
**Music and orchestration by
David Jackson**

No One Will Marry a Princess With a Tree Growing Out of Her Head!

Premiered at Actors' Playhouse Productions
for The National Children's Theatre Festival.

Musical. Book and lyrics by Michael Elliot Brill. Music and orchestrations by David Jackson. Cast: 5m., 2w., with doubling, or up to 15 (7m., 3w., 5 either gender) with roles distributed. This play is a clever and charming twist on the typical fairy tale. Sorcerer Wartsitch, "the wicked and the nasty," ruins the princess' 21st birthday bash. The princess is scheduled to choose a prince, but Sorcerer Wartsitch curses her with a small tree of undetermined variety growing out of her head. The princess has only three days to get it off—or the spell will be permanent. Gimlet, "the good and the kind," uses his magic and wits to help her collect pieces of a riddle from each of the Four Winds. With only two minutes to go, the riddle is solved and the princess meets her choice prince—none other than Gimlet himself. Production notes are available in the script containing full details on sound cues, props and special effects. Simple sets. Fairy tale costumes. Approximate running time: 90 minutes. Code: N69.

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Book and lyrics by
MICHAEL ELLIOT BRILL

Music and Orchestration by
DAVID JACKSON



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WITH A TREE GROWING OUT OF HER HEAD!)

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Dedicated to

Jane Altman

one-time Teacher — sometime Colleague — all time Friend

MEB

and

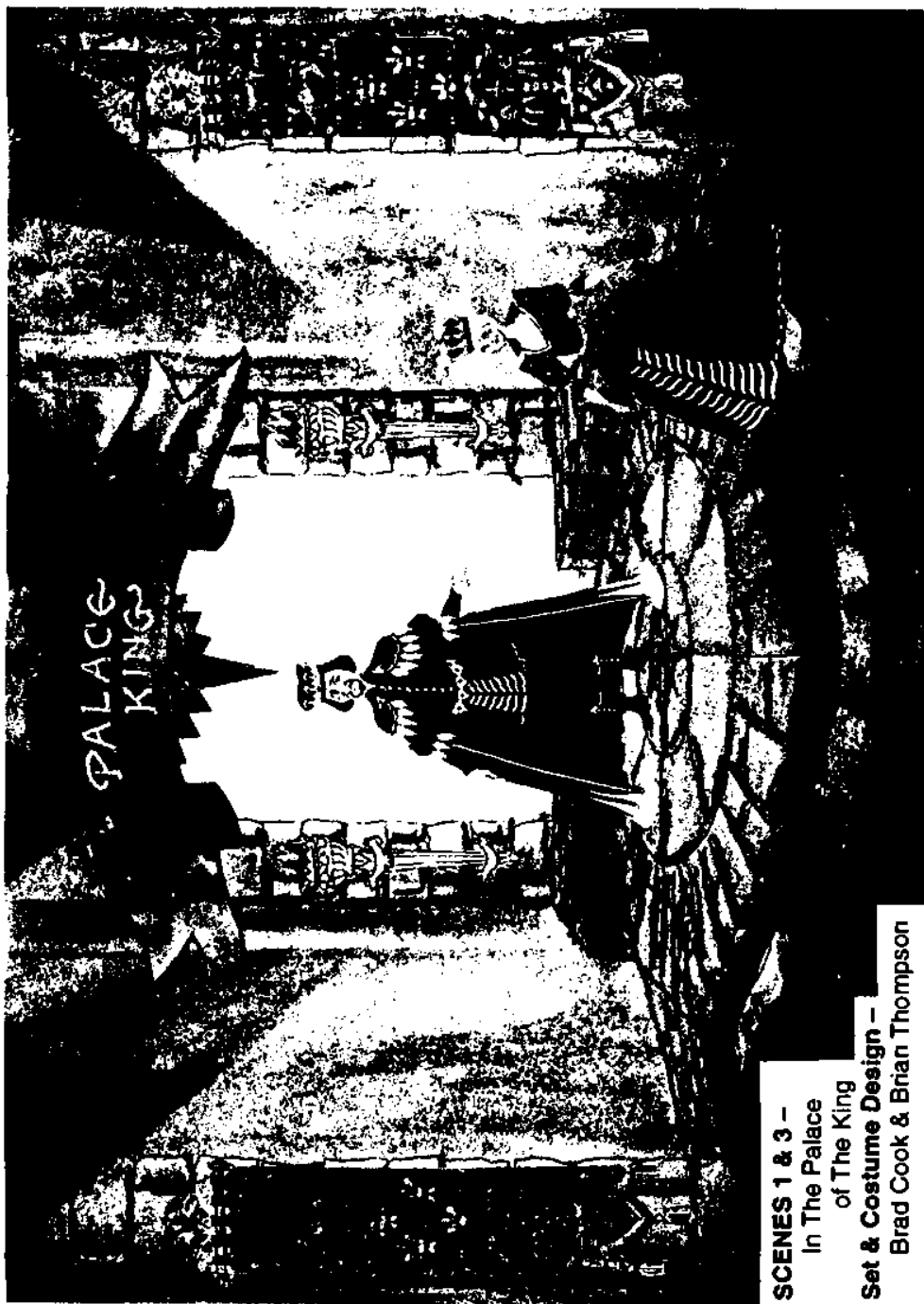
William E. Jackson

my source of encouragement

Leigh and Pat Toothaker

my sources of inspiration

DAJ



SCENES 1 & 3 -

In The Palace

of The King

Set & Costume Design -

Brad Cook & Brian Thompson

Synopsis

(songs indicated in bold)

(East of The Sun) Alas, alack and woe! All is far from happy in the castle of the King. A proclamation has been sent throughout the land: "Today the Princess has reached her twenty first birthday and, being of age, she will choose a husband. All eligible Princes, east of the sun and west of the moon, are bade welcome to the palace, for in three day's time one of them will have her hand in marriage." But, no sooner has this joyous missive been irretrievably dispatched, it is discovered that the Princess has a small tree, of indeterminate variety, growing from the top of her head! **(No One Will Marry A Princess With A Tree Growing Out Of Her Head!)**

This is the evil-doing of the black-hearted wizard, Wartsitch, The Wicked and The Nasty. There is only one person in the entire kingdom who might be able to help and that is the equally powerful Gimlet, The Good and The Kind. But, alas, no! The spell proves too strong for Gimlet to counteract. **(Start All Over Again)** He and the Princess must journey to The Land of The Winds. Only the four Winds have powers great enough to break the spell and remove the tree — which is growing at an alarming rate!

Gimlet transports himself and the Princess to the exact spot where North meets South and East meets West and calls the Winds, one at a time. **(A Spell)** However, the help of these magical beings is not to be had without some difficulty. They have to be coaxed, humored and, in some cases, outwitted.

The inscrutable East Wind gives them the gift of a fan, on which is inscribed an equally inscrutable riddle. The West Wind gives them a lariat. **(Beware The Thought That Takes No Thought To Think)** The North Wind provides them with a casket of Northern Light. **(I'll Be There)** The South Wind offers them an ornate hand mirror. **(Relax-i-ty)**

What is the meaning of the riddle? How can the unusual gifts be used to break the spell? And, how can it be broken before three days pass and the Princess is turned into a tree forever!

Three days pass as thirty minutes in The Land of The Winds and Gimlet and the Princess arrive back at the palace with only a few moments to spare. **(The King's Lament)** The tree is now huge and in full blossom. The poor Princess can barely walk under the weight of it. The King is in a panic. It seems that all of the Princes, east of the sun and west of the moon, have gathered to meet Her Royal Highness and rumors of the tree have spread like wildfire. Unless they meet her by sundown they will all depart!

Will the riddle of the Winds be solved before the great tower clock strikes the hour of sundown? Will good triumph over evil? Will the story end "...happily ever after"?

Of course!

CAST

*(in order of appearance)**

Narrator

Gimlet, The Good And The Kind

Wartsitch, The Wicked And The Nasty

First Lord of The Court

Second Lord of The Court

First Lady of The Court

Second Lady of The Court

The King

The Princess

The Lord Chancellor

The Prime Minister

The East Wind

The West Wind

The North Wind

The South Wind

Scene one: In The Palace of The King

Scene two: The Land of The Winds

Scene three: Back at The Palace

***DOUBLING**

(To reduce cast size to seven)

Narrator

Lord of Court, - Lord Chancellor, - Prime Minister, - W. Wind

Lady of Court - Gimlet's double - E. Wind - S. Wind

Gimlet

Princess

Wartsitch - N. Wind

King

See Production Notes in Addendum for further information about reducing cast size.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

MUSIC BOX PRELUDE Orchestra

Scene 1: In The Palace of The King

EAST OF THE SUN Narrator

NO ONE WILL MARRY A PRINCESS Wartsitch,
King, Princess, Lords and Ladies of The Court

START ALL OVER AGAIN Gimlet, Princess, King

Scene 2: The Land of The Winds

A SPELL Gimlet and Princess

WIND ON THE RANGE The West Wind

BEWARE THE THOUGHT The West Wind

I'LL BE THERE The North Wind

RELAX-I-FY The South Wind

Scene 3: Back at The Palace

THE KING'S LAMENT The King

EAST OF THE SUN (reprise) Full Company

The action, as written, is continuous. However, if desired, an intermission may be taken after the exit of the West Wind.



Permission is granted to producers for use of the above logo in programs and publicity.

Footnote numbers indicate sound cues. Refer to Addendum at back of playbook for a detailed schedule and production notes.

(There is no curtain. The stage is set with a grouping of three platforms. The highest; upstage left and right. An ornamental banner hangs above the central platform. It reads: In The Palace of The King. Black draperies back the set and form wings left and right; up and downstage.

When the House opens the stage is dimly lit in preset. One centrally located spot is brighter than the rest. After audience is seated, and houselights fade to half¹, music is heard. The gentle tinkling of a music box.

As the tune continues houselights fade out. NARRATOR enters from up center. He crosses down into the brighter light. Smiling, he looks around at audience and dusts himself off. This is a glittery stardust.

NARRATOR gestures toward up left platform. Lights there brighten and dim at his command. He gestures toward up right platform. Again, the lights there brighten and dim at his command. He raises his hands above his head and the spotlight he is standing in brightens. He lowers his hands, and the music fades out. He speaks to the audience...)

NARRATOR

Some people are children some of the time, and some people are children most of the time, and some people are children all of the time. This is a story for people who are children *most* of the time.²

(SONG - EAST OF THE SUN)

**Silver and gold
Fables are told
East of the sun
Mystery hides
Magic abides
East of the sun
Wishes are free
You can have three
West of the moon
Just for a smile
Come for awhile
West of the moon**

**Journey to a land of “Once upon a time...”
And I will travel there beside you
You don’t need a map, a reason or a rhyme
I know the way to go, I’ll guide you.**

**Let your heart fly
Give it a try
You’ll find it over too soon
Let your heart fly
East of the sun
West of the moon**

Once upon a time, east of the sun and west of the moon, on two great mountain tops, lived two great and powerful wizards. One of them was gentle and friendly and cheerful and honorable and wise, and he was called Gimlet, The Good and The Kind.³

(NARRATOR gestures to up right platform. Lights there brighten, turning a golden yellow. GIMLET steps into this light from wings. He looks to be a thousand years old, with a long grey beard and an ancient face. He is, seemingly, very short in his golden robe and wizard’s hat. He holds a staff. He smiles at audience, chuckles, and gestures toward upstage side of central platform. A huge sunflower rises from the floor in golden light. GIMLET smiles and chuckles again as lights fade on him.)

The other wizard was just the opposite, and he was called... a great many things! But his name was Wartsitch, The Wicked and The Nasty!⁴

(NARRATOR gestures to up left platform. Lights there brighten. This light is a cold blue. WARTSITCH, dressed in icy blues, steps into this light from the wings. He is ultimately wicked looking. He snarls at audience, gestures toward sunflower and it turns bright blue. There is a puff of smoke at the base of the flower and it wilts immediately. WARTSITCH laughs wickedly and snarls again at audience. Lights on him fade.)

The People of The Land...⁵

(The LORDS and LADIES of The Court enter from left and right. They bow to audience and pose regally.)

Were ruled by a wise and noble King.⁶

(KING enters from up center and crosses downstage. As he does, Court bows and poses again.)

The King had a lovely daughter; The Princess.⁷

(PRINCESS enters from up center. Court bows again as she crosses down to stand beside her father. NARRATOR exits into the wings.)

KING (majestically)

Let a proclamation be sent throughout the land...⁸

(Trumpet flourish)

Let it say that today the Princess has reached her twenty first birthday, and being of age she will choose a husband.

PRINCESS (trying to interrupt)

Father...

KING (not heeding)

Bid all the eligible Princes, east of the sun and west of the moon, welcome to my Palace...

PRINCESS (trying again)

Father...

KING (barreling on)

For in three days time, one of them will have the hand of my daughter in marriage.⁹

(Trumpet flourish.)

PRINCESS

My beloved father, my only wish is to make you happy.

KING

I am happy for that, my beloved child, for *my* only wish is to make *you* happy.

PRINCESS

I am soooo happy that making *me* happy makes *you* happy...

KING

And I am happier, still, that you are happy because of my wish for your happiness.

PRINCESS

Then you will understand, dear my father, how it pains me to tell you that neither of us will ever be happy again!

KING

Ever?

PRINCESS

Ever!

KING

What do you mean?

(PRINCESS unfolds her crown to reveal a small tree, of indeterminate variety, growing from the top of her head.)

PRINCESS

The Curse of The Tree!¹⁰

LORDS AND LADIES (in terror)

THE CURSE OF THE TREE?!!^{A1}

(They shriek and dash chaotically to other positions around the stage where they hide their eyes and cringe.)

KING (to audience)

Alas!

PRINCESS (to audience)

Alack!

LORDS AND LADIES

Woe!

(Stage lights dim, slightly. NARRATOR appears in spot at side.)

NARRATOR

It was true! When the Princess was born a wicked spell was cast upon her which stated that on the morning of her twenty first birthday a tree would begin to grow from her head! And so it had come to pass.

LORDS

Alas!

LADIES

Alack!

KING AND PRINCESS

Woe!

NARRATOR

No one really knew why, but everyone *certainly* guessed who...¹²

(As NARRATOR exits into wings and song begins, stage lights brighten, WARTSITCH enters from up center. LORDS AND LADIES join him in song as "backup.")

(SONG - NO ONE WILL MARRY A PRINCESS...)

BACKUP

Woe! Woe! Woe! Woe!

Woe! Woe! Woe! Woe!

BACKUP AND PRINCESS

Misery! Alas! Alack!

My heart is sore

The day is black

WARTSITCH

No one will marry a Princess with a tree growing out of her head!

PRINCESS

Very true!

KING

Maybe they just wouldn't notice

If nothing about it were said

PRINCESS

Wouldn't you?

BACKUP

**You'd see it in the summer and call it a hat
There really would be nothing peculiar in that
But think of the Autumn, you know what we mean**

WARTSITCH

When the leaves fell away she'd be bald as a bean

PRINCESS

When the leaves fell away I'd be bald as a bean

BACKUP

Woe! Woe! Woe! Woe! (etc.)

PRINCESS

**No one will marry a Princess with a tree growing out of
her head!**

WARTSITCH

Quite a blight

KING

**How would she look in December, after the Fall had
fled?**

PRINCESS

Just a fright!

BACKUP

**What would you do when the Spring came around
And the fruit began falling all over the ground**

KING

**I can just hear them whisper, "His Majesty swooned
When the Princess was taken away to be pruned!"**

BACKUP

No one will marry a Princess

PRINCESS

Won't anyone marry a Princess?

BACKUP, WARTSITCH, KING

No one will marry a Princess with a tree growing out of her head!

KING

Fruit nut or rubber tree

WARTSITCH

Give or take a shrubbery

BACKUP

One thing can surely be said

KING

Maybe in time they will wince less

BACKUP

But no one will marry a Princess...

WARTSITCH

And why would they marry... (etc.)

KING

But someone must marry... (etc.)

PRINCESS

Would you want to marry... (etc.)

ALL

No!

No one will marry a Princess with a tree growing out of her head!

(WARTSITCH exits upstage, cackling as he goes. LORDS AND LADIES shrug and exit left and right. KING paces for a few moments.)

KING

This spell must be broken before three days pass and all the Princes arrive. No one will give a second thought to your hand, I'm afraid, after they take one look at your head!

(They both pace. KING absentmindedly begins to sing to himself...)

"Fruit nut or rubber tree
Give or take a shrubbery..."

PRINCESS

Father!

KING (suddenly aware of his singing)

Oh! Forgive me.

(They pace.)

PRINCESS (having a thought)

Only the wisest man in the kingdom can help us.

KING

You're right.

PRINCESS

And that is...

KING (Interrupting her)

The Lord Chancellor! Of course! He will be able to help.

(Calling out...)

Send for The Lord Chancellor.¹³

(Trumpet flourish. LORD CHANCELLOR enters, mumbling. From the moment we lay eyes on him we recognize him to be a blithering ninny. He tries to attempt some measure of dignity but trips over his own feet and spins, bobs, lurches and twitches his way on to stand before KING. In one hand he carries a staff and in the other, books and scrolls.)

LORD CHANCELLOR

Eerrr... You sent for me, Your Majesty?

KING

In three days every young Prince, east of the sun and west of the moon, will be here. My daughter cannot appear before them with — that!

(He gestures toward tree. LORD CHANCELLOR turns to look at it, shrieks and drops everything he's carrying.)

What can we do?

LORD CHANCELLOR (blithering)

What can we... What can we do? Errr... umm... uhh...

KING (Impatiently)

Well!!

LORD CHANCELLOR

Uhhhh...

KING

WELL!?!?

LORD CHANCELLOR (In a panic)

This is a difficult problem, Your Majesty. It requires time to solve. Perhaps, after studying all the mathematical, astrological and diabolical aspects of it for... let's say... three and thirty days...

KING

You have three and thirty *seconds*!

LORD CHANCELLOR

I have three and thirty *seconds*. Err... Well... I...

KING

Five and twenty seconds!

LORD CHANCELLOR (In terror)

In that case I will tell you that if I had a tree growing where I didn't want it to grow I would... *chop it down!*

(As he says this he picks up his staff and uses it to indicate an axe, which he raises over his head, about to chop off the tree.)

PRINCESS (terrified)

AGHHHHH! Save me! *SAVE ME!!*

KING

Out! OUT!! You blithering nitwit!! GET OUT!!¹⁴

(LORD CHANCELLOR blithers, clumsily picks up all he's dropped and makes a hasty exit, stage left. PRINCESS begins to weep. KING hugs her.)

PRINCESS

It doesn't look like a hat. Does it?

KING

Well,... Uh,... No.

PRINCESS

What *does* it look like?

KING

Apple.

PRINCESS (in despair)

I'm doomed! DOOMED! No handsome Prince! No "...happily ever after." What's to become of me?! What will I do!?

KING (almost absentmindedly)

"...When the Spring comes around and the fruit begins falling all over the ground..."

(PRINCESS sobs hysterically.)

KING (consoling her)

There, there, my dear. We'll think of something. I think.

PRINCESS

Dear, my father, a wiser man than The Lord Chancellor is...

KING (interrupting her)

The Prime Minister! Of course!

(Calling out.)

Send for The Prime Minister!¹⁵

(Trumpet flourish. PRIME MINISTER enters from stage left. He's foppish. A fawning dandy. He carries a lorgnette. He bows first to KING and then to PRINCESS — without noticing the tree — and, again, to KING.)

PRIME MINISTER

His Royal Majesty sends for his devoted Prime Minister, who comes at once to do his Royal Majesty's slightest bidding.

KING

There is a problem.

PRIME MINISTER

Your Majesty, I am delighted to hear it.

KING

What!?

PRIME MINISTER

Sire, no problem is too great — no task too difficult. Your Majesty has but to command and I, Your Majesty's faithful, lowly and loyal Prime Minister will obey.

KING

Remove the tree from the head of the Princess.

PRIME MINISTER

Do what?

KING

I said — remove the tree from the head of the Princess!

(PRIME MINISTER looks at her and, for first time, sees the tree, gasps and gapes.)

"No problem is too great, no task too difficult..." I have but to command... Well, you've heard my command. Obey!

(PRIME MINISTER recovers his composure and begins to circle PRINCESS, observing the tree through his lorgnette. He comes up behind her, grabs the tree and tugs fiercely at it.)

PRINCESS (terrified)

AGGGGHHHHH!!!! Save me! SAVE ME!!

KING

STOP! What are you doing!? Have you lost your mind!?

PRIME MINISTER

Your Majesty said to remove the tree. I believe I can pull it out by the roots. I'm told it's done that way.

KING

Ten times a ninny!! If you pull it out you will leave a great, gaping hole in my daughter's head! Which would be worse! The tree was put there by *magic* and by *magic* it must come out! Go! GO!!¹⁶

(PRIME MINISTER makes a hasty exit, stage right. KING sulks.)

PRINCESS

Forgive me, my father, but you still have not called the wisest man in your kingdom.

KING

Not the Lord Chancellor? Not the Prime Minister? Who is it?

PRINCESS

The wizard of Golden Mountain — Gimlet, The Good And The Kind. If by magic the tree grew and by magic it will go, he may be able to help.

KING (calling out)

Send for Gimlet, The Good And The Kind!¹⁷

(Trumpet flourish. KING and PRINCESS cross up center. PRINCESS continues to the exit. KING remains with his back to audience. Stage lights dim. NARRATOR enters from wings, down left, in a single spotlight.)

NARRATOR

And so a message was sent to the little castle on top of Golden Mountain.¹⁸

(NARRATOR gestures and Golden Mountain lights fade up. GIMLET enters. A cartoon hand, holding a scroll, is thrust from the wings nearby. GIMLET reads it. THIS IS NOT THE REAL GIMLET. IT'S A DOUBLE, PLAYED BY THE LADY OF THE COURT WHO WILL LATER APPEAR AS SOUTH WIND.)

Gimlet raced to the Palace.